BLOODY JUNKIE
2
連見ナツメ

著者略歴
連見ナツメ
Natsume Tsuremi

I HAD MANY IMPORTANT EXPERIENCES WHILE WRITING THIS SERIES. I'D BE HAPPY IF WE COULD MEET AGAIN THROUGH ONE OF MY OTHER WORKS.

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SQUARE ENIX.

THE BATTLE ROYALE STYLE MURDER GAME "BLOODY JUNKIE" IS BROADCAST ONLINE AND THE COMMENTS OF THE VIEWERS ARE TRANSMITTED TO THE PLAYERS IN VOICE FORMAT. SHOUTA MOCHIZUKI, A BOY SEARCHING FOR HIS BROTHER, IS KIDNAPPED ONE DAY AND FORCED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GAME. SOMETIMES THE VIEWERS WHO ENJOY WATCHING RECKLESS AND CRUEL MURDERS INFURIATE SHOUTA, BUT AT OTHER TIMES THEY HELP HIM. IN THE MIDST OF THIS, HE ENCOUNTERS SOME PLAYERS WHO WANT TO STOP THE KILLINGS... WILL HE BE ABLE TO SURVIVE THIS EXTREME SITUATION..?! THE CONCLUDING VOLUME OF THE SURVIVAL SUSPENSE STORY!

BLOODY JUNKIE
2

BLOOD JUNKIE
2
HASUMI NATSUME

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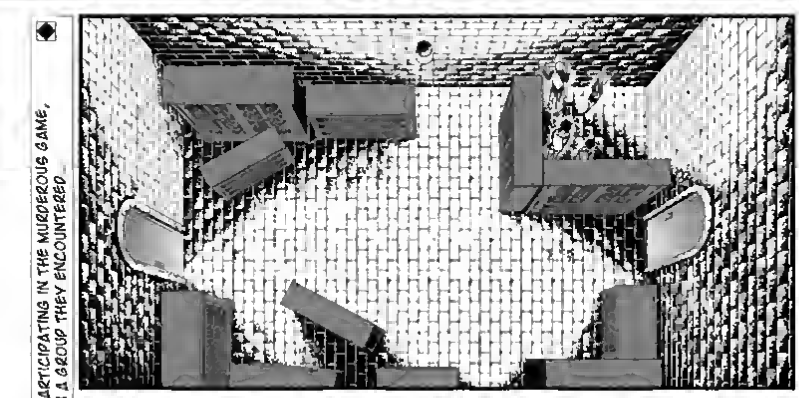
BLOODY JUNKIE

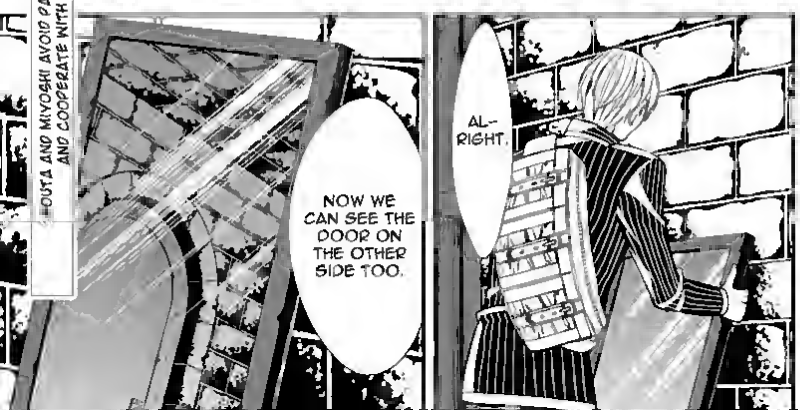
ブラッディ ジャンキー

scene 6: Rules

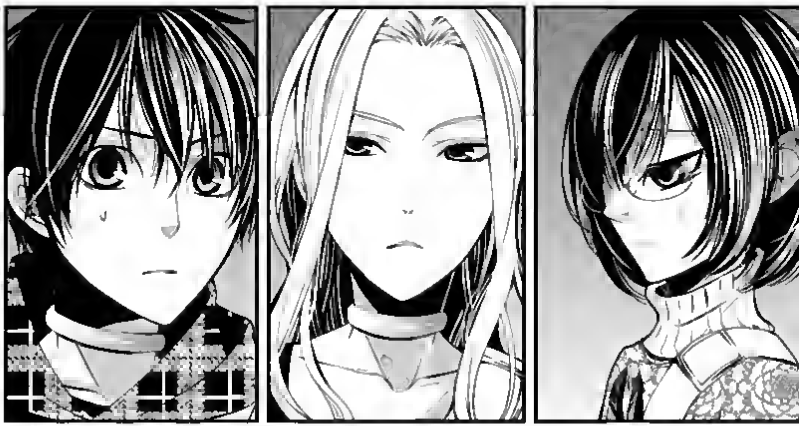
HASUMI NATSUME



FOUTA AND MIYOSHI AVOID PARTICIPATING IN THE MURDEROUS GAME, AND COOPERATE WITH A GROUP THEY ENCOUNTERED



RIGHT,
WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR THE OTHERS, WE'LL SHARE THE INFORMATION WE KNOW.



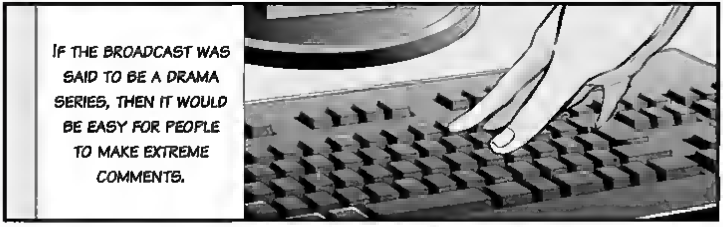
DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, MOCHIZUKI-KUN?
EH? UMM...
WELL...

YOU MENTIONED A SCRIPT AND HAVING SEEN THE BROADCAST EARLIER
THEY'RE GOING TO START FROM THE BEGINNING, HUH
WHY DON'T YOU KNOW THE RULES...?
THEY'VE GOT TOO MUCH FREE TIME ON THEIR HANDS.
OH, RIGHT. YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE BROADCAST.
VIDEO FOOTAGE FROM THIS PLACE IS BEING BROADCAST ON THE "BLOODY JUNKIE" CHANNEL, WHICH IS PART OF A PAID STREAMING SITE.
THE UNIQUE ASPECT OF THIS BROADCAST IS THAT IT'S A REAL TIME GAME WHERE EVENTS CAN BE ALTERED BY THE OPINIONS OF THE VIEWERS

WE BELIEVED THAT THE PARTICIPANTS WERE ALL ACTORS AND THAT THE SHOW HAD A ROUGH SCRIPT, WHICH WAS ALTERED ACCORDING TO THE OPINIONS OF THE VIEWERS.
WHEN WE WATCHED THE BROADCAST WE THOUGHT IT WAS A SCRIPTED DRAMA SERIES.
I THOUGHT THAT THE WORDS "IT MIGHT BE YOUR TURN NEXT", WHICH APPEARED AT THE END OF THE SHOW, WERE JUST MEANT TO SCARE US
OH YEAH THAT DOES APPEAR LOL
WE COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE WERE REALLY BEING KILLED
I GUESS THEY BROADCAST IT BELIEVING THE VIEWERS WOULDN'T THINK PEOPLE REALLY WERE KILLING EACH OTHER
I WAS SO SCARED WHEN I FIRST SAW IT I THOUGHT THE WORDS WERE ONLY SHOWING UP ON MY COMPUTER LOL
.....

"A NORMAL PERSON WOULDN'T WATCH THIS BROAD-CAST."

I might have had the feeling I was watching something that wasn't meant to be seen, and then watched the broadcast of my own will.
I wonder what would have happened if I had a friend who watched it, and told me there was an interesting channel I should watch.
But...
...Maybe I would have watched the broadcast too?


If the broadcast was said to be a drama series, then it would be easy for people to make extreme comments.

If those three are "strange" because they watched the broadcast,
then does that mean I'm "normal" because I haven't seen it?
What does "normal" mean anyway?

Even though I was about to kill someone earlier?
I don't know...
I can't even trust myself...

HOW ABOUT WE GET ALL THE PARTICIPANTS TO JOIN FORCES AND AGREE NOT TO KILL?
I SHOULD TRY TO BE HELPFUL, EVEN IF I CAN ONLY DO A LITTLE.
I SHOULD STOP THINKING ABOUT DEPRESSING THINGS.
RIGHT
SQUEEZE
HUH...?!
IF THERE'S NO WINNER AFTER THREE DAYS, THEN EVERYONE WILL DIE.
THIS GAME IS THREE DAYS LONG.

YOU'RE WEARING A COLLAR, RIGHT?
THESE WERE PUT ON US BY THE ORGANISERS TO KILL US IN CASE SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENS
SO IT'S NO GOOD EVEN IF WE COOPERATE AND SURVIVE...?
THEN DOESN'T THAT MEAN GATHERING TOGETHER LIKE THIS IS POINTLESS?!
SHOCK
!?
A COLLAR?!
NO ONE WOULD WEAR SOMETHING LAME LIKE THIS!
B-BUT I COULDN'T SEE MY OWN NECK!
I THOUGHT EVERYONE WAS WEARING THEM BECAUSE THEY WERE STYLISH
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE IT BEFORE?
YOU'RE SO SLOW

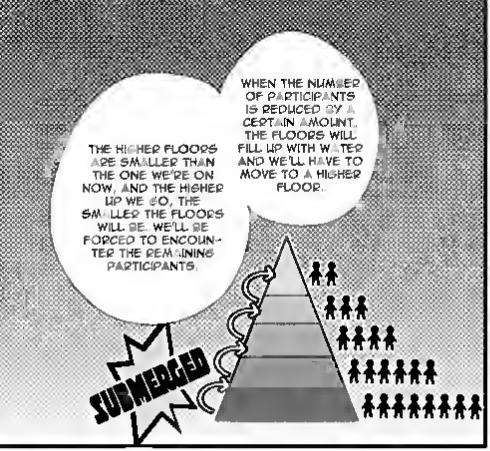
IT'S TRUE... THEY'RE BOTH WEARING COLLARS.
THE COLLAR IS STYL ISH LOL
THEY'RE NOT STYLISH
HE REALLY DIDN'T NOTICE? EVERYONE HE MET WAS WEARING ONE.
MOST PEOPLE PROBABLY THINK THAT
MIYOSHI-SAN IS TOO...!
.....!

IF EVERYONE'S GOING TO DIE ANYWAY, THEY MIGHT AS WELL
KILL THEM.
NO WAY... I THOUGHT WE COULD GET OUT OF HERE,
BUT BE-CAUSE WE'VE GOT THESE, THERE'S NO ESCAPE...
MOCHI-ZUKI-KUN

IF THERE'S STILL A CHANCE, THEN I WANT TO FIND A WAY EVERYONE CAN SURVIVE.
GIVING UP IS TOO EASY.

INSTEAD OF PREPARING TO DIE, WE SHOULD MAKE AN EFFORT TO FIGHT FOR OUR LIVES!
OKAY!

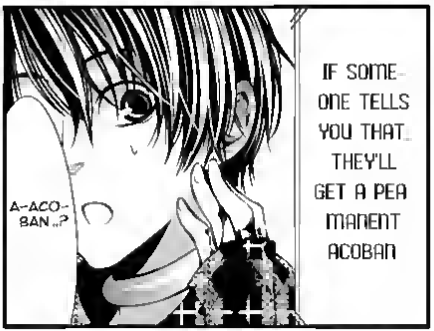
YES...
FUJINO-SAN IS RIGHT.


WHEN THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS REDUCED BY A CERTAIN AMOUNT, THE FLOORS WILL FILL UP WITH WATER AND WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE TO A HIGHER FLOOR.
THE HIGHER FLOORS ARE SMALLER THAN THE ONE WE'RE ON NOW, AND THE HIGHER UP WE GO, THE SMALLER THE FLOORS WILL BE. WE'LL BE FORCED TO ENCOUNTER THE REMAINING PARTICIPANTS.
SUBMERGED

UNFORTUNATELY, IN THE FINAL STAGE OF THE GAME THERE IS A SYSTEM WHICH MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID FIGHTING.

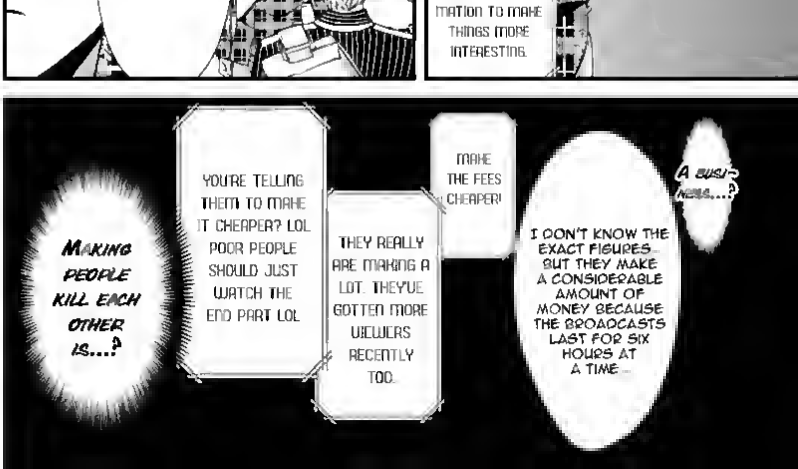
EH...
EH?!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT AN ACOBAN IS?!
GRAB
EEK
SHOUTA-KUN IS REALLY OLD-FASHIONED!
THAT'S THE WAY TO GO MISS!

NO, THAT'S...
YOU IDIOT
BUT COULDN'T WE GET THE PEOPLE IN THE CHAT ROOM TO COOPERATE AND TELL US WHERE THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS ARE?

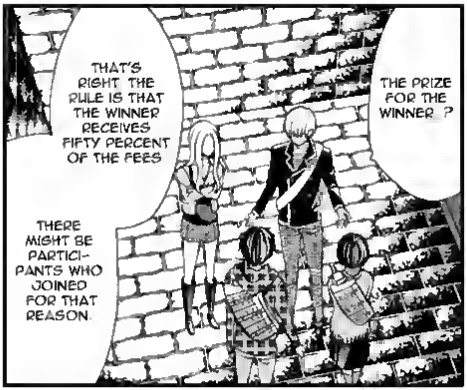

A-ACOBAN...?
IF SOMEONE TELLS YOU THAT, THEY'LL GET A PERMANENT ACOBAN

JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM THE SMART GUY WITH GLASSES!
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO POST COMMENTS OR VIEW THE BROADCAST
tch
"ACO" MEANS "ACCOUNT", AND "BAN" MEANS "TO FORBID".
THE USE OF YOUR ACCOUNT IS RESTRICTED OR COMPLETELY FORBIDDEN...
THAT'S RIGHT. THE ORGANISERS DECIDE WHETHER SOMETHING IS RELEVANT OR NOT, SO YOU CAN'T EVEN MENTION SOMETHING THAT COULD BE SLIGHTLY REVEALING.

WHY ON EARTH ARE THE ORGANISERS RUNNING THIS BROADCAST...?
I DON'T THINK IT'S AN ORDINARY BUSINESS...
WHY WOULD WE EVEN COOPERATE LIKE THAT ANYWAY?
IF IT WAS OKAY TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT WE'D PROBABLY GIVE YOU FAKE INFORMATION TO MAKE THINGS MORE INTERESTING.
I SEE... I THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA THOUGH.

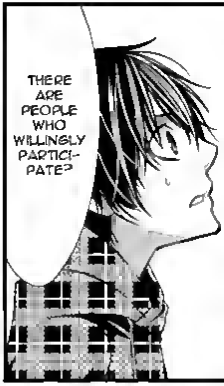

MAKING PEOPLE KILL EACH OTHER IS...?
YOU'RE TELLING THEM TO MAKE IT CHEAPER? LOL POOR PEOPLE SHOULD JUST WATCH THE END PART LOL
THEY REALLY ARE MAKING A LOT. THEY'VE GOTTEN MORE VIEWERS RECENTLY TOO.
MAKE THE FEES CHEAPER!
I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT FIGURES... BUT THEY MAKE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY BECAUSE THE BROADCASTS LAST FOR SIX HOURS AT A TIME...
A BUSINESS...?

EVER SINCE THE DAY MY OLDER BROTHER DISAPPEARED.
NO...
IS THIS REALLY JAPAN?
IT FEELS SO UNREAL I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
IT'S AS IF I'VE BEEN DREAMING.
EVER SINCE I WOKE UP IN THIS PLACE.
SQUEEZE
AND...
IF THIS IS A DREAM, THEN LET ME WAKE UP SOON...!


THAT'S RIGHT. THE RULE IS THAT THE WINNER RECEIVES FIFTY PERCENT OF THE FEES
THE PRIZE FOR THE WINNER...?
THERE MIGHT BE PARTICI-PANTS WHO JOINED FOR THAT REASON.

!
THAT'S WHERE THE PRIZE FOR THE WINNER COMES FROM

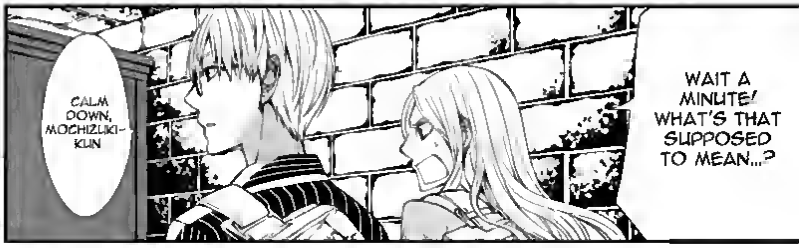
gasp


THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WILLINGLY PARTICI-PATE?

AH, THAT'S RIGHT.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I READ ON SOME MESSAGE BOARD
...YES. THE INFORMATION PAGE FOR THE BROADCAST SAYS ANYONE WHO WANTS TO PARTICI-PATE SHOULD EMAIL THE ORGANISERS
MAYBE THOSE TWO CHOSE TO PARTICI-PATE...?

EH...?!
THE GUY WHO POSTED IT WAS BUSY AND COULDN'T GO THOUGH.
I SAW THAT MESSAGE TOO
I HEARD THAT SOME PEOPLE GET REPLIES AND OTHERS DON'T. I WONDER WHETHER THAT'S TRUE?
THAT WHEN YOU SEND AN EMAIL ABOUT PARTICIPATING, ONE DAY YOU'LL SUDDENLY GET A REPLY FROM THE ORGANISERS TELLING YOU TO COME TO THE PLACE MARKED ON THE ATTACHED MAP WITHIN THIRTY MINUTES.
HMM? WHY'D YOU SHOUT LIKE THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
T-THAT MES-SAGE IS THE SAME AS THE ONE THAT GOT SENT TO MY PHONE!

I THOUGHT IT WAS A CLUE ABOUT MY BROTHER...
WHEN I TURNED UP AT THAT PLACE, I WAS BROUGHT HERE...!
A SHOCKING TRUTH!
WHY?!
HUHHH?!
HUH?


CALM DOWN, MOCHIZUKI-KUN
WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN...?

CAN YOU EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO US?

I THINK THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
YOUR BROTHER DISAPPEARED AND YOU GOT A MESSAGE FROM AN UNKNOWN ADDRESS TELLING YOU TO SEND AN EMAIL IF YOU WANTED A CLUE.
YOU SENT AN EMAIL WITHOUT REALISING THAT IT WAS GOING TO THE BLOODY JUNKIE ORGANISERS...
I SEE...
AH...
RIGHT!
SO SOMEONE TRICKED HIM?
WILL THIS BE IMPORTANT LATER?
SO THAT'S WHY HE SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW THE RULES?
NO.
ME NEI-THER
HAVE YOU HEARD THE NAMES SOUICHI MOCHIZUKI AND MINA HIROSE BEFORE?
I'M NOT SURE. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHETHER HIS BROTHER'S DISAPPEARANCE IS RELATED TO THE GAME.

ONE OF THOSE NAMES IS YOUR BRO-THER'S... WHOSE IS THE OTHER ONE?
WHEN I SEARCHED FOR "HIROSE" I ONLY GOT RESULTS ABOUT WILD PLANTS LOL WHAT IS THIS? LOL
WHEN I SEARCHED FOR "SOUICHI MOCHIZUKI" I ONLY GOT FORTUNE TELLING SITES
I SEE...
NO ONE USES THEIR REAL NAME ONLINE THESE DAYS
ISN'T IT MORE LIKELY THAT THEY CHOSE TO DISAPPEAR?
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON!
HUH, SHE'S DISAPPEARED TOO?
DID THEY RUN AWAY TOGETHER?
IT'S THE NAME OF MY BROTHER'S GIRL-FRIEND. I BECAME UNABLE TO CON-TACT HER AROUND THE SAME TIME THAT I STOPPED BEING ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MY BROTHER
I'D BE GLAD IF THAT WAS TRUE THOUGH...
THEY ALWAYS CONTACTED ME IF THEY WERE GOING AWAY SO THEY CAN'T HAVE DONE THAT
DIDN'T THEY JUST GO AWAY ON A TRIP OR SOMETHING?
HUH? BOTH OF THEM HAVE DIS-APPEARED?

NO ONE S GOING TO COME LOOKING FOR ME. MY FAMILY DISOWNED ME AND I JUST BROKE UP WITH MY BOYFRIEND, SO HE S GONE
NO ONE'S GOING TO COME LOOKING FOR ME EITHER
UMM... CONSIDERING THAT THIS MANY OF US GOT TAKEN AWAY, THEN WOULDN'T SOMEONE LIKE OUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS NOTICE THAT WE'RE GONE AND COME LOOKING FOR THIS PLACE?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MOCHI-ZUKI-KUN?
DO YOU HAVE ANY RELATIVES APART FROM YOUR BRO-THER...?
I DON'T. I JUST QUIT SCHOOL, AND I HAVEN'T BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MY FRIENDS RECENTLY...
BOTH MY P..RENTS ARE WORKING... THEY'RE NOT HOME MOST OF THE TIME...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MIYO-SHI-S..N...?
THEY'RE KIDNAPPING A LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE, SO THEY HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO REDUCE THE RISK...
I SEE ..THE ORGANISERS CONSIDER THAT WHEN THEY CHOOSE THE PARTICI-PANTS

NATSUMI-SAN?
IF SOME-ONE WAS GOING TO COME LOOKING FOR ME... IT'D BE ONE OF MY BRO-THER'S FRIENDS...
AH, NATSUMI-SAN!
I SEE... RIGHT! NATSUMI-SAN WILL...
WAIT A MINUTE! THERE ARE TOO MANY NEW PEOPLE BEING INTRO-DUCED!
THIS IS A NEW WAY OF GETTING TO KNOW PEOPLE.
SHE'S MY BROTHER'S GIRLFRIEND'S SISTER
I ONLY MET HER AFTER MY BROTHER AND HIS GIRLFRIEND DISAPPEARED, BUT WE'VE BEEN HELPING EACH OTHER OUT A LOT RECENTLY SO IF I DISAPPEARED SUDDENLY, SHE'D THINK SOMETHING WAS WRONG AND COME LOOKING FOR ME!
HUH?
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE GO MISSING IN A YEAR?

NOW HERE'S A QUESTION HOW MANY DAYS LONG IS THIS GAME?
EARLIER, FUJINO-SAN SAID IT WAS THREE DAYS
ABOUT 80,000 PEOPLE
AND THAT'S ONLY THE ONES WHO'VE BEEN REPORTED MISSING THE ACTUAL NUMBER IS FAR LARGER
RIGHT HERE'S THE SECOND QUESTION
ASSUMING THAT YOU'VE BEEN REPORTED MISSING, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT WILL TAKE THE POLICE, WHO ARE VERY BUSY, TO TRACE THE ORGANISERS AND THIS PLACE?
.....!

HE'S COMPLETELY DEFEATED.
...I'VE BEEN THINKING THIS FROM THE BEGINNING. DON'T YOU HAVE TOO LITTLE SENSE OF DANGER?
WELL, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT REALISTICALLY, IT'S TRUE.
EVEN WHEN I KNOCKED YOU DOWN, YOU WERE READY TO FIGHT BACK, BUT HESITATED WHEN YOU SAW MY FACE.
DID YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN BECAUSE I'M A WOMAN?

IF I WAS SERIOUS ABOUT KILLING YOU, YOU AND THAT GIRL WOULD BE DEAD NOW.
THERE'S NO WAY I'D LET MYSELF GET HIT, YOU SEE.

IT'S TRUE THAT I WAS UNABLE TO MOVE FOR A MOMENT BECAUSE I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE A WOMAN.
IT WOULDN'T BE SURPRISING IF I'D GOTTEN KILLED IN THAT SITUATION.

WELL...

THAT'S
CLENCH
I'M ONLY STANDING HERE NOW BECAUSE SASAKI-SAN DIDN'T HAVE THE INTENTION TO KILL ME.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN SAY.
!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!

M-MOCHIZUKI-SAN...
S-SAVED ME!
THAT GAVE ME A SHOCK.
MIYOSHI CHAN, SHE !
HEY, HEY. WHAT'S GOING ON? LOL

HE TOLD ME TO RUN AWAY... AND PROTECTED ME...!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
SHOCK

DO YOU THINK THAT LIVES WILL BE SAVED JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE "FEELS THAT THEY WANT TO HELP"?!
THAT WON'T BE ANY USE ONCE SOMEONE'S DEAD!
.....
!
GRAB

AH...
WHAT'S YOUR REPLY?!
YES!
GRAB
AN IDIOT LIKE YOU COULD NEVER HAVE ENOUGH LIVES!
DON'T COUNT ON HELP THAT MIGHT NOT EVEN COME!
WE'RE LOCKED UP IN HERE, A PLACE WHERE MURDERERS ARE WANDERING AROUND!
LISTEN UP! FACE REALITY!

SHE'S SO COOL...
AH... SHE'S SO BOLD...
TWEN
hmph

IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A SENSE OF DANGER. IT'S FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION, YOU SEE.

HUH?!
WELL, PUTTING ASIDE THE FACT THAT SHE HAS A SHOCKINGLY SHARP TONGUE, SASAKI-SAN DOES HAVE A POINT

GRAB
OWWWWW!
DON'T GIVE SUCH AN OBEDIENT REPLY!

O-OKAY

SMACK
!!
whisper
WANT TO TOUCH THEM?
!?
I WOULDN'T LET A KID LIKE YOU TOUCH ME!
OWW!
SMACK
YOU IDIOT! IT'S A HUNDRED YEARS TOO EARLY FOR THAT!

スクウェア・エニックスが挑む新世界!!
本気のWEBマガジン登場!!
ガンガンONLINE

MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF SASAKI-SAN WAS THAT WE WOULDN'T GET ALONG WELL BECAUSE OF THE HARSH WAY SHE SPEAKS, BUT NOW THAT I'VE TALKED TO HER, SHE SEEMS RELIABLE.
FUJINO-SAN IS CALM AND EASY TO TALK TO.
I'M GLAD I GOT TO JOIN UP WITH THEM ..
GASP
MIYO-SHI-SAN?
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK PALE...
EH...
AH...
SORRY, I'M FINE.
.....

EH.
MIYOSHI-SAN ARE YOU UNCOMFORT-ABLE AROUND SASAKI-SAN?
AH.
UMM.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. IT'S NOT SASAKI-SAN.

IT'S JUST THAT SHE'S ALWAYS SO DIRECT WHEN SHE TALKS..
MY FRIEND

WAS KIND OF LIKE THAT TOO... UMM...
AND... SHE HATED ME...
!

SOME...
SOME-ONE I KNOW..

THANK YOU
FOR STICKING UP FOR ME.

I'M SORRY I ASKED YOU ABOUT SOMETHING TERRIBLE LIKE THAT
AH... IT'S OKAY.

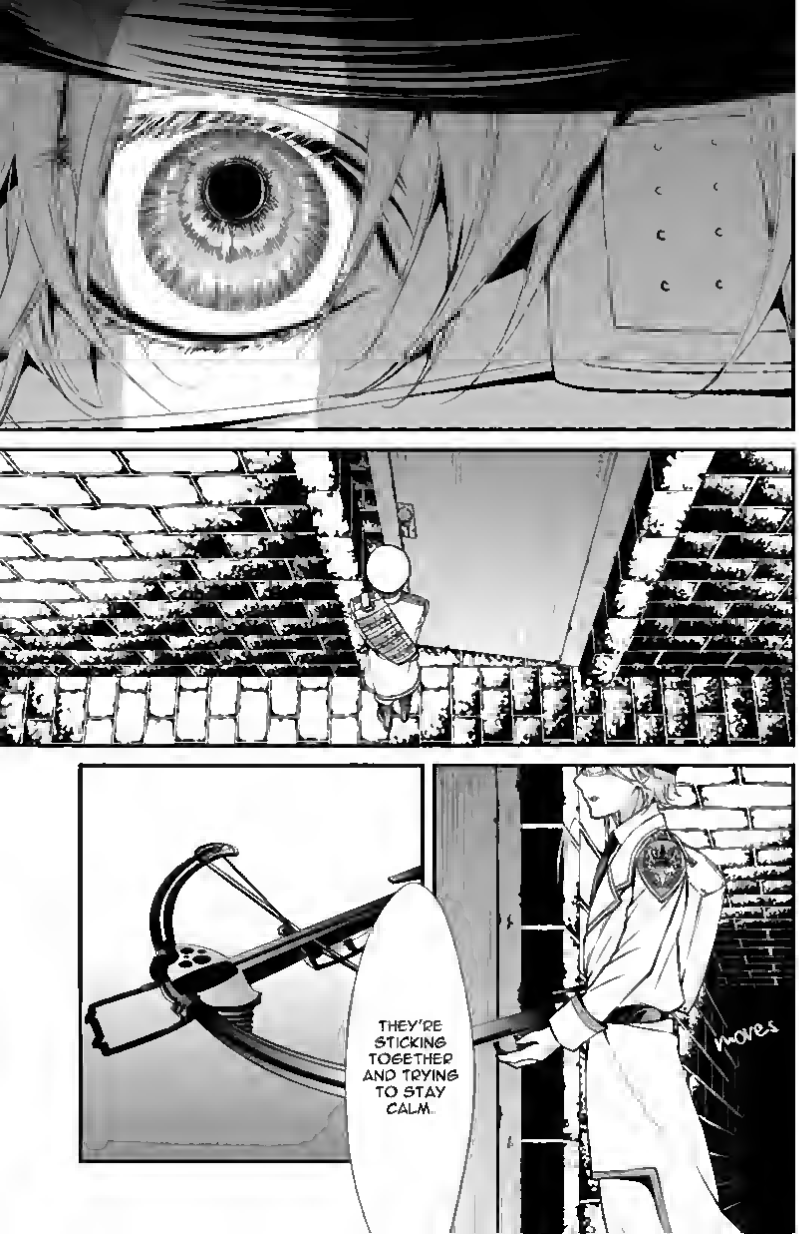
UMM...
...?

AH...
I DID IT BECAUSE IT WAS WHAT I REALLY THOUGHT
WELL...

EH...

O-OKAY!

I WAS HAPPY
LET'S TRY OUR BEST TOGETHER


THEY'RE STICKING TOGETHER AND TRYING TO STAY CALM.
moves

HUMANS ARE
SUCH WEAK CREA-TURES.
THE BOY WITH THE CROSSBOW IS TARGETING SHOUTA AND THE OTHERS—!
CLICK
TO BE CONTINUED
10/4

BLOODY JUNKIE

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THE LONG-AWAITED FIRST VOLUME GOES ON SALE NOVEMBER 24TH!

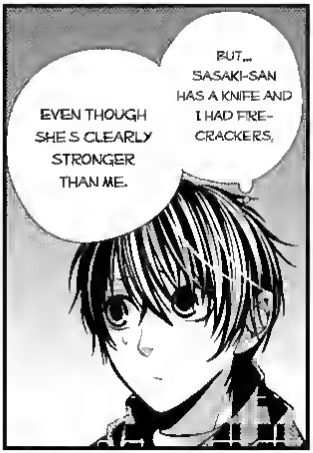
BLOODY JUNKIE

ブラッディ・ジャンキー

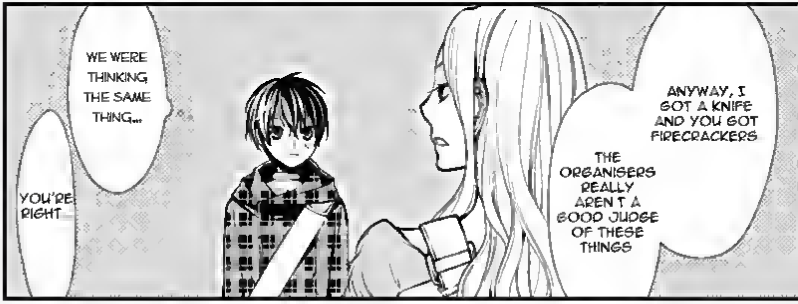
TRAPPED IN A CAGE OF BLOOD AND DARKNESS...

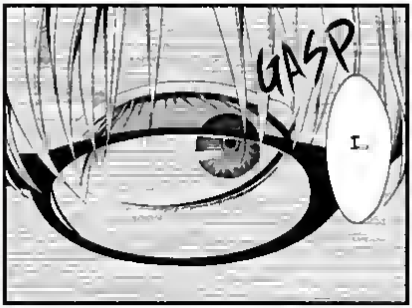
2 Shouta and Miyoshi met up with a group that refuses to join in the fight to the death...
...EACH BAG CONTAINS A WEAPON.
THE ORGANISERS DIDN'T SAY SO, BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE A HANDICAP.
IF SOMEONE HAS A HIGH CHANCE OF WINNING, THEY GET A WEAK WEAPON. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THEY HAVE A LOW CHANCE OF WINNING, THEY GET A STRONG WEAPON.
IN FACT, IT SEEMS THAT WOMEN ARE OFTEN GIVEN BLADED WEAPONS, WHILE MEN ARE GIVEN THINGS THAT WOULD BE USELESS UNLESS USED SKILFULLY.
I SEE...
I'M CONFIDENT THAT I WOULD GET THE STRONGEST WEAPON IF I WAS THERE LOL
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT SOME ONE STRONG COULD BECOME INVINCIBLE SO THEY'RE KEEPING THINGS BALANCED
THE THEORY THAT THERE'S A HANDICAP SEEMS TO BE RIGHT THERE'S A CLEAR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PLAYERS

click
IT'S JUST A BUTTERFLY KNIFE, BUT IT SHOULD BE USEFUL AS A DIVERSION.
COME TO THINK OF IT, MIYOSHI-SAN HAD A SCYTHE
AND SASAKI-SAN HAS A KNIFE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
spin
HEY, WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
IT SUITS YOU SO WELL THAT THERE'S NOTHING BETTER!
MINE?
WELL?
WHAT WAS YOUR STARTING WEAPON?
WHOOOOA


EVEN THOUGH SHE'S CLEARLY STRONGER THAN ME.
BUT... SASAKI-SAN HAS A KNIFE AND I HAD FIRE-CRACKERS.

I GOT FIRE-CRACKERS
THEY WERE THE OPENING FIREWORKS
I USED THEM WHEN I WAS ATTACKED BY ANOTHER PLAYER, SO I DON'T HAVE THEM ANYMORE...
GETTING SAVED BY FIRECRACKERS... YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT KINDS OF THINGS WILL COME IN HANDY


WE WERE THINKING THE SAME THING...
YOU'RE RIGHT
ANYWAY, I GOT A KNIFE AND YOU GOT FIRECRACKERS
THE ORGANISERS REALLY AREN'T A GOOD JUDGE OF THESE THINGS

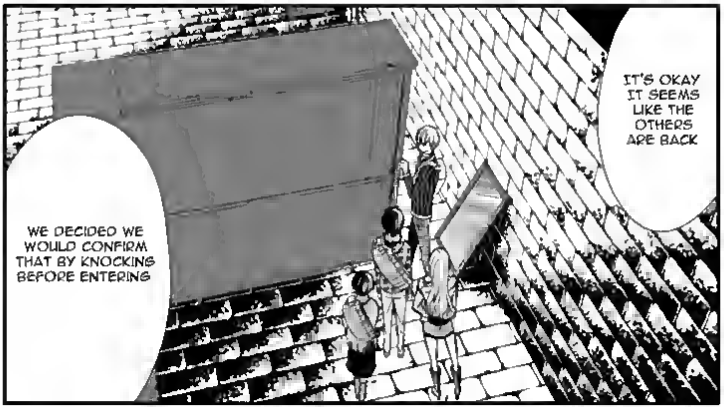

GASP
I...

MEP
WHAT DID YOU GET, FUJINO-SAN?

KNOCK
SHOCK

SOME...
SOMEONE'S THERE..?

!
SHH!

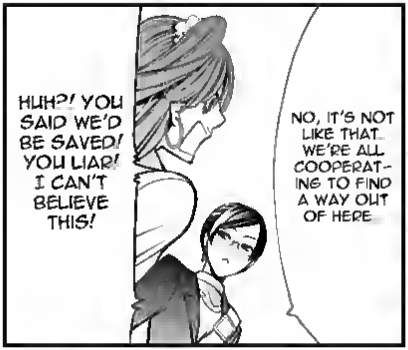

IT'S OKAY IT SEEMS LIKE THE OTHERS ARE BACK
WE DECIDED WE WOULD CONFIRM THAT BY KNOCKING BEFORE ENTERING

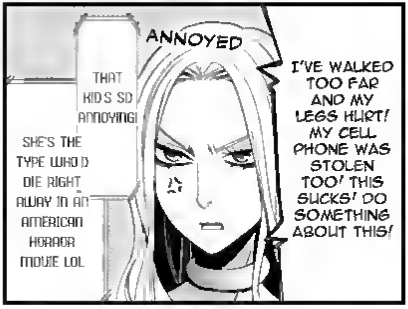
AH, YOU'RE ALREADY BACK, FUJINO-SAN.
YES.
HE MET A BOY ON THE WAY HERE, SO I THINK HE'LL BE BACK AFTER HE'S EXPLAINED SOME THINGS TO THAT BOY.
.....?
WHAT HAPPENED TO NIKAIDO-SAN?
I SEE
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE TOO, FUJINO-SAN. I'M RELIEVED TO SEE YOU
MIKI-SAN.
knock knock
CREAK
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.

SUZUHARA-SAN AND TACHIBANA-SAN.
HMPH
.....
MY NAME IS SUZUHARA
LET ME INTRODUCE THE PEOPLE I MET UP WITH...
SHE SEEMS TO BE IN QUITE A BAD MOOD...
THE GIRL IS IGNORING EVERY ONE
SOME HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS ARE LIKE THAT
GRUMBLE
BLINK
I'M GLAD I GOT TO MEET THIS MANY PEOPLE SO SOON.
I WAS FEELING WORRIED WHEN I WAS ALONE...

EH...
SMILE
I HOPE WE'LL GET ON WELL
AH, YES I HOPE SO TOO
BUT THIS PERSON IS FRIENDLY
A REFRESHING AND HAND SOME GUY
HE SEEMS EVEN BETTER BECAUSE OF THE GIRL BESIDE HIM.
FORGET ABOUT THAT STUFF!

WEREN'T WE GOING TO BE SAVED BY COMING HERE?
HURRY UP AND GET US OUT OF HERE!


NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT... WE'RE ALL COOPERATING TO FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE...
HUH?! YOU SAID WE'D BE SAVED! YOU LIAR! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!


I'VE WALKED TOO FAR AND MY LEGS HURT! MY CELL PHONE WAS STOLEN TOO! THIS SUCKS! DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!
ANNOYED
THAT KID'S SO ANNOYING!
SHE'S THE TYPE WHO'D DIE RIGHT AWAY IN AN AMERICAN HORROR MOVIE LOL

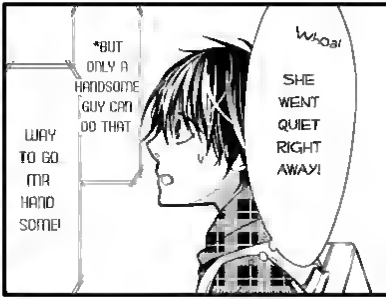
SHUT UP, YOU DAMN KID! STOP YELLING!

HUH? WHAT DO YOU WANT, OLD LADY?
I ONLY CAME HERE BECAUSE I WAS TOLD EVERYONE SHOULD COME!

I HOPE SHE DIES RIGHT AWAY
RUMBLE RUMBLE
UMM...
AH.
I WANNA PUNCH THAT KID
THE FIGHT HAS BEGUN LOL
WHAT?
.....?
SHH.
poke

Hot
blush

YOU'LL PROTECT ME IF I GET INTO TROUBLE


Whoa!
SHE WENT QUIET RIGHT AWAY!
*BUT ONLY A HANDSOME GUY CAN DO THAT
WAY TO GO MR HANDSOME!

COME ON, SASAKI-SAN. THAT'S ENOUGH NOW, ISN'T IT?
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT OF HERE WILL YOU HELP US TOO?
WELL, I GUESS I CAN

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR TYPE AT ALL.
HUH? I WON'T DO THAT. GOT IT?
SHOCK
WHA YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE EITHER!
WHY ARE YOU MIS-UNDERSTAND-ING AND GET-TING CARRIED AWAY?!
WHA
I'M PRETTY SURE SHE DESERVED THAT
THAT'S SO COLD LOL SO HE WAS ACTUALLY ANGRY AT THE KID? LOL
SERVES HER RIGHT LOL
HE SMILED AND SAID SOME-THING CRUEL WITHOUT ANY HESI-TATION!

NOTE: The "humiliation play" part in the original Japanese suggests someone being humiliated and enjoying it.
BOW
UMM... WE MET UP WITH THESE TWO, MOCHIZUKI-KUN AND MIYOSHI-SAN.
AH...
THAT'S HUMILIATION PLAY LOL
THAT GIRL IS A SORE LOSER LOL
AH, PLEASE EXCUSE ME. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
HMM? YES.
MOCHI-ZUKI...?
GASP
KNOCK KNOCK

HUH? THAT VOICE...
IS THAT YOU, HIROSE-SAN?
MIKI-SAN? ARE YOU THERE?
FUJINO-SAN AND THE OTHERS ARE ALREADY BACK.
CREAK
NO WAY. IT CAN'T BE...
THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D BE HERE...

HUH?!
NATSUMI-SAN?!
NATSUMI-SAN IS THE GIRL FRIEND OF HIS BROTHER WHO HE MENTIONED EARLIER RIGHT?
NO, SHE'S THE GIRLFRIEND'S SISTER.
!
SHOUTA-KUN?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
ARE YOU SERIOUS? LOL
THIS IS TOO MUCH LOL
I KNEW IT. HIROSE-SAN MENTIONED THE NAME "MOCHIZUKI" EARLIER, AND I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE YOU

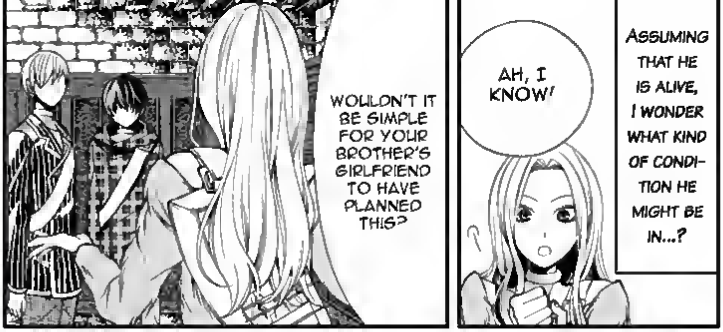
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS IMPORTANT WHEN I HEARD IT EARLIER, SO I DIDN'T REALISE RIGHT AWAY I'M SORRY.
NO... IT WOULDN'T BE NORMAL TO THINK SHE WAS HERE JUST BECAUSE SHE HAPPENED TO HAVE THE SAME SUR-NAME
I SEE. HIROSE-SAN IS THE GIRL MOCHIZUKI-KUN WAS TALKING ABOUT EARLIER
HUH?! COME TO THINK OF IT, HE DID ASK IF WE KNEW SOMEONE CALLED HIROSE...
BUT FOR THE BOTH OF YOU TO BE HERE.. IT CAN'T BE A COINCIDENCE.
PERHAPS IT REALLY HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR BROTHER AND HIS GIRLFRIEND?
HOW DID YOU END UP HERE, HIROSE-SAN?
I WAS SUDDENLY CONTACTED BY EMAIL...
YOU TOO?!

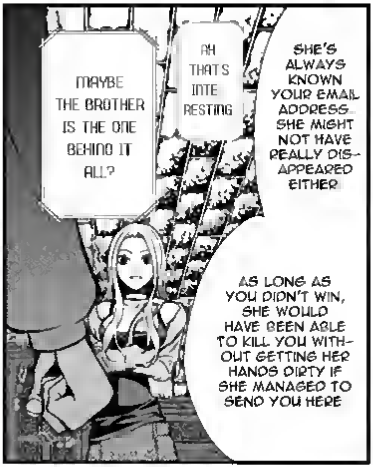
スクウェア・エニックスが挑む新世界!!
本気のWEBマガジン登場!!
ガンガンONLINE

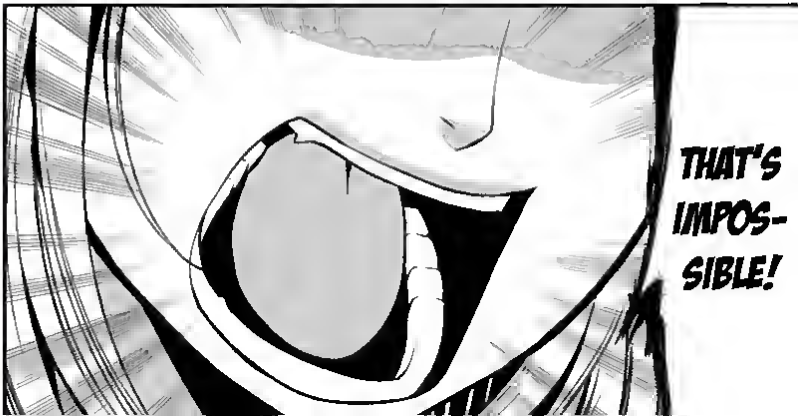
...IF WE GOT HERE THE SAME WAY, THEN DOESN'T THAT MEAN WE WERE LURED HERE?
WELL THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE SAME PERSON CONTACTED BOTH OF THEM
WHO ON EARTH WAS IT...? THE PERSON WHO KIDNAPPED MY BROTHER?
WILL THE BROTHER APPEAR NEXT?
WAS I CAUSING TROUBLE FOR THEM BY LOOKING FOR MY BROTHER AND HIS GIRL-FRIEND...?

UNPLEASANT THOUGHTS CROSS MY MIND.
IS MY BROTHER EVEN ALIVE?

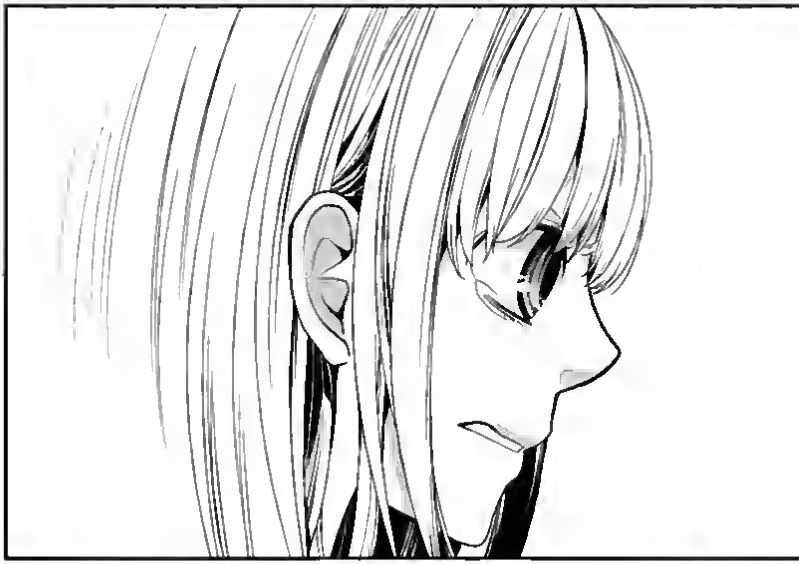
I WONDER IF IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE THAT THE PERSON WE CAME FOR IS EVEN ALIVE.
NATSUMI-SAN AND I, WHO WERE ONLY LOOKING FOR CLUES, ARE IN THIS GAME WHERE THE PLAYERS MUST KILL EACH OTHER.

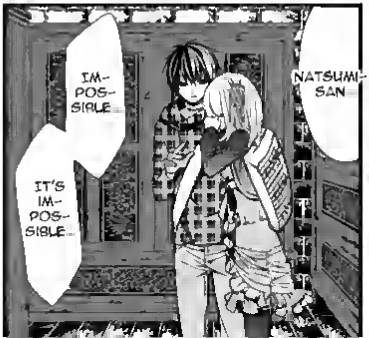

ASSUMING THAT HE IS ALIVE, I WONDER WHAT KIND OF CONDITION HE MIGHT BE IN...?
AH, I KNOW!
WOULDN'T IT BE SIMPLE FOR YOUR BROTHER'S GIRLFRIEND TO HAVE PLANNED THIS?

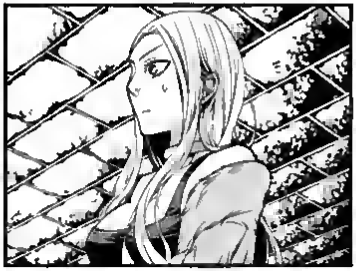

MAYBE THE BROTHER IS THE ONE BEHIND IT ALL?
AH THAT'S INTERESTING
SHE'S ALWAYS KNOWN YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. SHE MIGHT NOT HAVE REALLY DISAPPEARED EITHER
AS LONG AS YOU DIDN'T WIN, SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KILL YOU WITHOUT GETTING HER HANDS DIRTY IF SHE MANAGED TO SEND YOU HERE

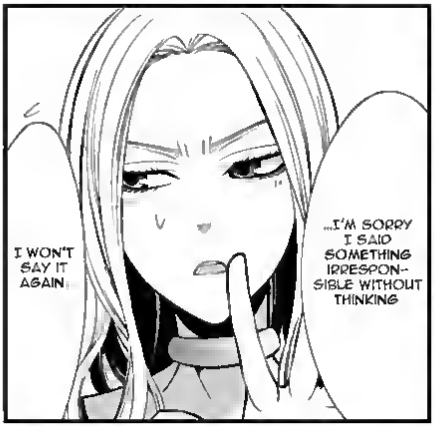

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

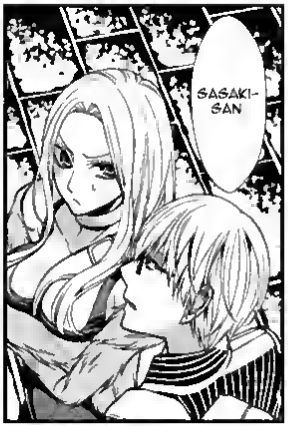
YOU DON'T KNOW ANY-THING! SHE'S NOT THAT TYPE OF PERSON! NEVER SAY THAT AGAIN, EVEN IF YOU MEAN IT AS A JOKE!
HUH? LOL WHAT? LOL
THAT WAS A SUR-PRISE
SHE GOT ANGRY BECAUSE SOMEONE INSULTED HER FAMILY, HUH?
T-THAT'S RIGHT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
HUH?
YOU SAY SOME-THING TOO, SHOUTA-KUN!
THEY'RE BEING TOO HARD ON HIM LOL
JUST WHAT IS HE SUPPOSED TO DO? LOL
YOU SHOULD DENY IT PROPERLY!
DON'T BLINDLY FOLLOW SOMEONE ELSE!




IM-
POS-
SIBLE...
IT'S
IM-
POS-
SIBLE...
NATSUMI-
SAN...

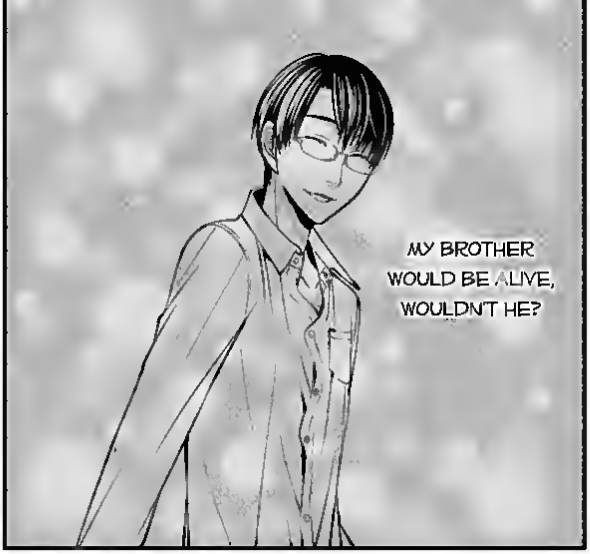



I WON'T SAY IT AGAIN.
...I'M SORRY I SAID SOMETHING IRRESPON-SIBLE WITHOUT THINKING

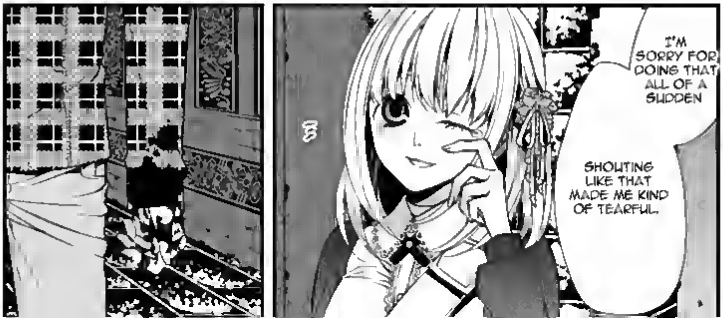

SASAKI-SAN

NO..I'M SORRY I GOT ANGRY ALL OF A SUDDEN

BUT...I THOUGHT IT'D BE OKAY IF WHAT SASAKI-SAN SAID WAS TRUE.
NATSUMI-SAN GOT ANGRY.



BECAUSE IF IT WAS TRUE



S-SHOUTA-KUN! YOU'RE HURT!
WAAAH
trembletremble
S-S-STAY CALM!
YOU CALM DOWN TOO, NATSUMI-SAN!
YOU SHOULD CALM DOWN LOL
HE WAS HURT? AH, I COMPLETELY FORGOT.
WAIT A MINUTE
RUSTLE
ALL I'VE GOT IS A HANDKER-CHIEF, SO I CAN'T TREAT YOUR INJURY, BUT...
AH, IT'S OKAY. YOUR HAND-KERCHIEF WILL GET DIRTY.
AH, THAT'S LUCKY. I'M IMPRESSED SHE CARRIES AROUND A HANDKERCHIEF
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE HAND-KER-CHIEF!
TIGHTEN
OWW!
ARE YOU HURT ANY-WHERE ELSE?
DO YOU FEEL UNWELL?
I... I'M FINE!

I SEE. HAVE YOU GOT A FEVER?
TELL ME RIGHT AWAY IF YOU FEEL SICK
NO..
I'M GLAD YOU SEEM TO BE OKAY
O-OKAY
I WANT A SISTER LIKE THAT
HUH ? ARE YOU THE MAIN CHARACTER OF A DATING GAME? STOP FLIRTING!

KNOCK KNOCK
!

CREAK
EVERYONE ELSE IS HERE NOW, AREN'T THEY?

SQUEEZE

THIS IS USAMI-KUN.
AND...
TAP
NIKAIDO-SAN.
SORRY I'M LATE. I MET SOMEONE ON THE WAY HERE.
?
HE LOOKS KIND OF PALE...
HELLO
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU. THIS IS TAKAHASHI-KUN

HELLO, MY NAME IS USAMI!
NICE TO MEET YOU!
blush

!?

WHO IS THIS GUY?
WHAT A NOISY KID
WHOA! THIS ROOM LOOKS JUST LIKE THE ONE I SAW ON THE BROAD-CAST! AMAZING, AMAZING!
bounce
bounce
A MILITARY UNIFORM...?

YOUR CLOTHES ARE AMAZING.. IS THAT A MILITARY UNIFORM?
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S THE UNIFORM FROM "KOREMA"!
OH YES! I THOUGHT I'D SEEN THAT UNIFORM SOMEWHERE. IT'S FROM "KOREMA" HUH?
IS THAT COS PLAY?
IT LOOKS WELL MADE
AH, IT'S A UNIFORM FROM A WELL KNOWN LIGHT NOVEL. COME TO THINK OF IT THERE WAS A CHARACTER WITH AN EYEPATCH.
A LIGHT NOVEL?
AH, IT WASN'T ME ANYWAY, IS THAT EYE-PATCH PART OF YOUR OUTFIT TOO?
THAT'S RIGHT!
THAT'S RIGHT! HAVE YOU HEARD OF IT?
GRAB
SHOCK

A DEMON WHO THREW HUMANITY TO THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR AND POSSESSED A GREAT DEMONIC POWER WHICH DESTROYED THE WORLD IS SEALED BENEATH THIS EYEPATCH!
THIS EYE IS AS RED AS BLOOD SYMBOLISING THE DEMON KING'S HATRED. ALL THE PEOPLE WHO SEE THAT HATRED AMIDST THE BURNT CRIMSON SAY THAT THEY SHIVER IN FEAR. EVEN NOW, THE LEGENDARY DEMON KING RULES OVER US FROM THAT DARK ABYSS...!
AND THE PROPHETS SAY THAT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT WILL BE AN UNAVOIDABLE TRAGEDY. THE SEAL IS ALREADY AS FRAGILE AS GLASS.
GRIP

THE DEMON KING WILL SOON BE REBORN!
BANG
W-WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
His eyes are blue and red...
AMAZING! HE SAID THOSE LINES JUST LIKE THEY WERE IN THE NOVEL!
THIS HURTS LOL IT HURTS TOO MUCH LOL
IT HURT SO MUCH IT WAS ACTUALLY KIND OF COOL LOL
IT APPEALS TO MY TEEN-AGER SIDE !
HE'S INTERESTING ! LOL

SQUEEZE
NO, IT WASN'T ME WHO...
I HOPE SO TOO
AH, I'M GLAD THERE'S SOMEONE WHO'S HEARD OF KOREMA! I HOPE WE GET ON WELL!
A-AMAZING ARE THOSE COLOURED CONTACTS?
THAT'S A SECRET!
SHAKE SHAKE
I HOPE WE'LL GET ON WELL!
I HOPE WE'LL GET ON WELL!
HE'S A LITTLE STRANGE... BUT HE SEEMS TO BE A GOOD KID
HELLO! I'M USAMI I HOPE WE'LL GET ON WELL...
!
GRAB

.....
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE'VE ALL GATHERED HERE, SO WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO STOP THE KILLINGS.
I HOPE SO TOO.
I HOPE WE'LL GET ON WELL, SUZUHARA-SAN!

NOW THAT THERE ARE THIS MANY PEOPLE, HE CAN TAKE HIS TIME KILLING THEM AND IT'LL BE FUN.
KILL EVERYONE! KILL EVERYONE!
IT'S JUST AS PLANNED!
I HOPE IT'S A WOMAN THIS TIME!
HE'S A SLY PERSON LOL
ALRIGHT! HE CAN KILL WHO-EVER HE LIKES!
COME ON! BRING ON THE NEXT VICTIM!
WELL, I WONDER WHETHER HE CAN KILL THEM ALL.
KILL! KILL! KILL!

ALRIGHT,
LET'S
BEGIN.
A PAIR OF PLAYERS WITH HIDDEN EVIL INTENTIONS HAS INFILTRATED THE GROUP...!
TO BE CONTINUED 12/6

Bloody Junkie

by Hasumi Natsume

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This English Release is presented to you by The Zero Alliance

TEXT

Yukihito (translation) | Kaito (typeset)

IMAGE

Caalum-Infinitum, Kaito, Malu (clean & redraw)

QUALITY

Keeahtihn, Ninjamuffin (proofread) |
Kaito (image enhancement) | Kaito & Yukihito (overall review)

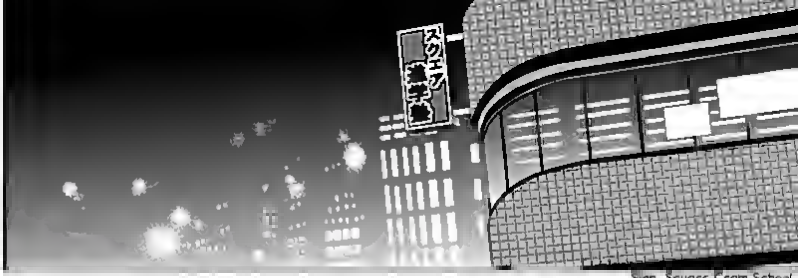
THE PAST OF USAMI, THE BOY IN MILITARY UNIFORM WHO CARRIES A CROSSBOW...
SO COOL~
YOUR COSPLAY IS THE MOST ACCURATE ONE I'VE SEEN!
WOW! AMAZING!
YOUR CHARACTER IS ETERNALLY FOURTEEN YEARS OLD, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T GET TO SEE ACTUAL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS DOING COSPLAY THAT OFTEN
LINE UP, LINE UP!
AH, OKAY
A PHOTO! CAN I TAKE A PHOTO?
AH!
BLOODY JUNKIE

AH~ THIS IS GREAT~
CAN I UPLOAD IT ONLINE?
SURE, GO AHEAD
THANKS! I'M GOING TO SHOW ALL MY FRIENDS!
RIGHT! IN RETURN FOR THAT, I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT AN INTERESTING SITE
EH~ THANK YOU
IT'S A PAID SITE, BUT CHECK IT OUT IF YOU CAN
I'm sending you a message
OH YEAH, THE NEXT VOLUME OF KOREMA IS FINALLY COMING OUT!
I KNOW! I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT BECAUSE IT STOPPED AT AN EXCITING PART LAST TIME!

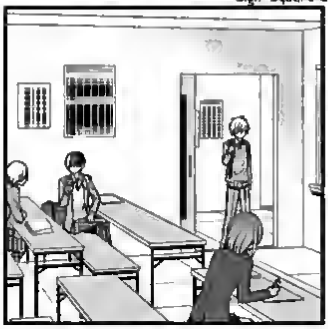
TODAY'S OFFLINE MEETING WAS FUN THOUGH. THEY LIKED MY COSPLAY TOO.
...IT'S OKAY TO HANG OUT WITH OTHER PEOPLE SOMETIMES. I'LL DO SOME MORE STUDYING WHEN I GET BACK HOME.
UH OH. IT'S GET-TING LATE. I SHOULD HURRY.
I'M HOME, MOM.
AH.

18:01
BUT IT'S ONLY ONE MINUTE PAST SIX..
YOUR CURFEW IS 6PM.
I TOLD YOU
SHOCK
DON'T MAKE EXCUSES!
YOU MUSTN'T WASTE EVEN ONE SECOND!
IF YOUR GRADES FALL ANY FURTHER, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY IN YOUR CURRENT CRAM SCHOOL, RIGHT?!

I'M... I'M SORRY.
NEVER MIND... HURRY UP AND STUDY.
AL-RIGHT...
CLICK
mutter mutter
WHY
WHY IS MY SON THE ONLY USELESS CHILD?
DID I RAISE HIM THE WRONG WAY...?



Sign: Square Gram School



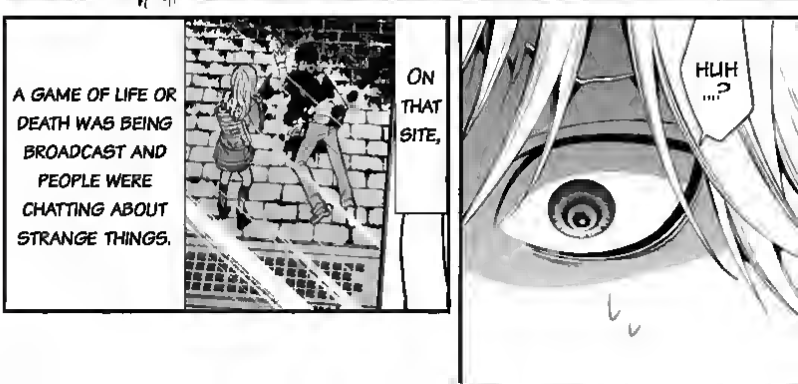
Note: 'Moe' is considered as 'cute' or 'adorable' by certain minority (often, but not necessarily otaku) but it is seen more negatively by general public. "Cute" has a positive connotation in English, hence, the mockery would lose its meaning.

IF I GOT THOSE KINDS OF GRADES, I'D JUST KILL MYSELF!
HAVING THE LOWEST GRADES MUST BE GREAT NO ONE EXPECTS ANYTHING FROM YOU, SO YOU CAN PLAY ALL YOU WANT
I COULDN'T DO THAT.

...SHUT UP.
hahahaha
I'D BE TOO EMBARRASSED TO COME HERE!
Right??
GRT
SHUT UP!
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU ALL!
JUST WATCH
EVERYONE JUST SAYS WHATEVER THEY WANT!

...I'LL BUY A KNIFE
AND KILL EVERYONE I HATE.
THEN...
... THEN...?
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
NO ONE NEEDS ME.

I DON'T CARE WHERE I AM, AS LONG AS I'M NOT HERE...
tap
I WANT TO GET OUT.
I DON'T CARE.
...AH. THE SITE THAT GIRL TOLD ME ABOUT IN RETURN FOR THE PHOTO...


A GAME OF LIFE OR DEATH WAS BEING BROADCAST AND PEOPLE WERE CHATTING ABOUT STRANGE THINGS.
ON THAT SITE,
HUH ...?

GET OUT FROM THIS WORLD.

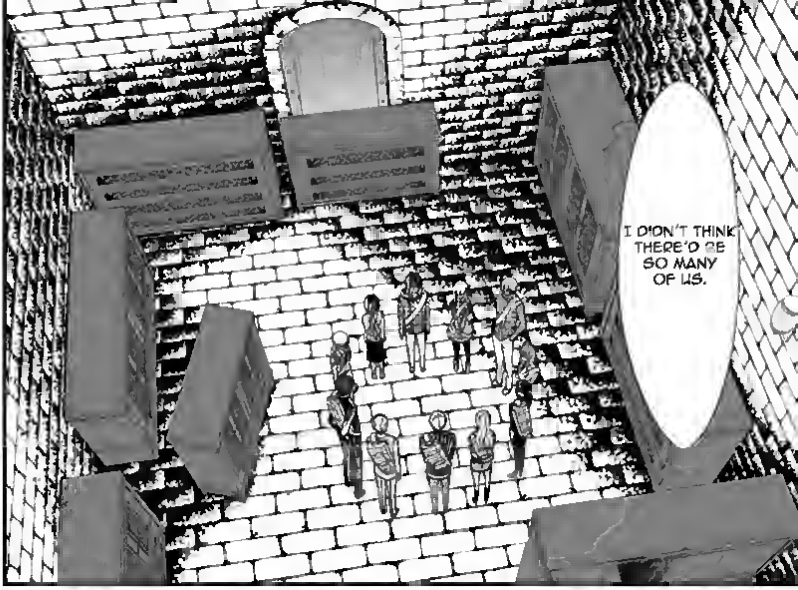
I WAS SHOCKED

THE FIRST TIME I SAW IT.

THEN MY HEART STARTED RACING

THAT'S RIGHT. IT WAS SOMETHING SO SIMPLE.

IF I WANT TO GET OUT, THEN I'LL JUST DO IT.


I DON'T THINK THERE'D BE SO MANY OF US.

HAVE YOU SEEN ANY PLAYERS APART FROM THE ONES IN OUR GROUP?

I'M NOT SURE HOW MANY PLAYERS THERE ARE THIS TIME, BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT THE PREVIOUS GAMES, THEN DON'T WE HAVE ABOUT HALF THE PLAYERS HERE?
I'M GLAD THERE ARE A LOT OF UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE.

raise

AH...

I, I SAW A DEAD PERSON.
HE WAS TIED TO A LAMP WITH HIS HANDS BEHIND HIS BACK, SO I THINK HE WAS MURDERED.
HUH?!
IF HE WAS TIED UP AND KILLED, THEN A CRUEL PERSON MUST HAVE DONE IT! IT'S HORRIFYING!
AH, THE GUY FROM EARLIER?
HE'S DEAD HUH?
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT HIM GETTING REVENGE LOL
A MAN TIED WITH HIS HANDS BEHIND HIS BACK... IT'S GOT TO BE HIM.
...HE WAS MURDERED?
HE COULDN'T RUN AWAY BECAUSE I TIED HIM UP...?
WHAT IS IT?
AH...

HUH?!
AH... I DIDN'T KILL HIM!
I... I WAS THE ONE WHO DID IT.
THAT MAN... HE TRIED TO KILL MIYOSHI-SAN, SO I CAUGHT HIM AND TIED HIM TO A LAMP...
I COULDN'T KILL HIM, BUT I COULDN'T LET HIM GO FREE EITHER...
.....
SO...

!!
Now that I think about it calmly, that's true.
Why didn't I realise earlier?
Even though the result was clear to me...!
Th-then...
In this situation, it's obvious someone would get killed if you tied them up and left them alone.

A-ARE YOU SAYING YOU WOULD'VE THOUGHT UP A GOOD PLAN IN THAT SITUATION?!
IS THERE A WAY TO STOP SOMEONE WHO TRIED TO KILL YOU FROM CHASING YOU WITHOUT HURTING THEM?!
HUH? I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
I WAS JUST SAYING WHAT I THINK. I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE ANGRY!

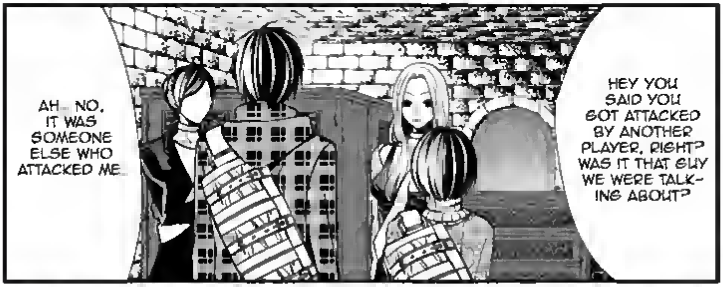
THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU DAMN KID.

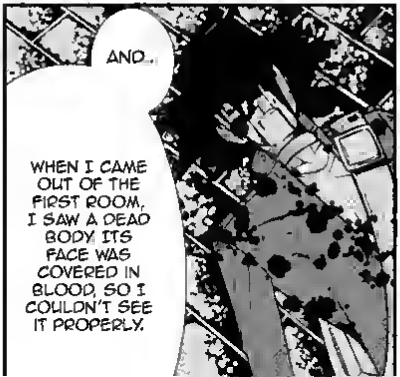
TWITCH
!

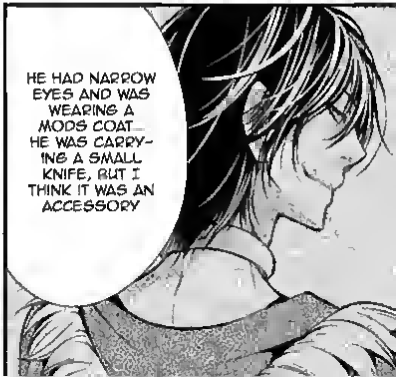
SHE'S NICE.
I THINK I'D STAY WITH SASAKI-SAN.
I KNOW.
THE MAN WHO WAS KILLED GOT WHAT HE DESERVED. HE WAS PROBABLY KILLED BY SOMEONE WHO ALSO WANTED TO KILL OTHERS, JUST LIKE HIMSELF.
DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH, SHOUTA-KUN. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE ABOUT DOING SOMETHING...
ALRIGHT...
I'M SURE I WOULD'VE DIED IF YOU HADN'T SAVED ME
SO I THINK YOU DID THE RIGHT THING BACK THEN.
MOCHIZUKI-SAN...
MIYOSHI-SAN

YEAH... THANKS...

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
I'M SURE IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT...!


AH... NO, IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE WHO ATTACKED ME.
HEY YOU SAID YOU GOT ATTACKED BY ANOTHER PLAYER, RIGHT? WAS IT THAT GUY WE WERE TALKING ABOUT?


AND..
WHEN I CAME OUT OF THE FIRST ROOM, I SAW A DEAD BODY. ITS FACE WAS COVERED IN BLOOD, SO I COULDN'T SEE IT PROPERLY.


HE HAD NARROW EYES AND WAS WEARING A MODS COAT... HE WAS CARRYING A SMALL KNIFE, BUT I THINK IT WAS AN ACCESSORY

I PASSED SOME STAIRS EARLIER. SHALL WE GO THERE?
MOVING FLOORS SOON MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA.

AH, YES
...SO YOU SAW HIM TOO, MIKI-SAN.
THAT PERSON.. WAS IT A MAN WHOSE HEAD HAD BEEN CRUSHED?

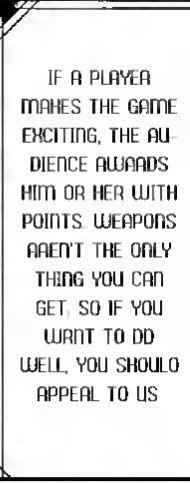
I THINK THE PACE IS FASTER THIS TIME
THEY MIGHT END UP MOVING FLOORS
HMM.. NOW WE KNOW THAT TWO MORE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED

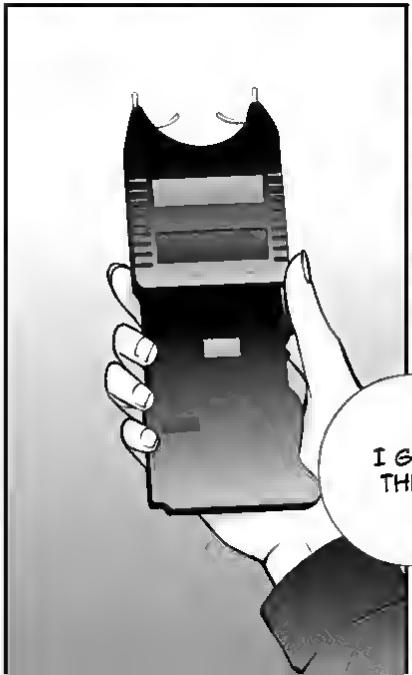
IF YOU SEE HIM AGAIN, YOU'LL BE COMPLETELY BARE HANDED SO YOUR ONLY CHOICE WILL BE TO RUN
AH BUT IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE POINT EXCHANGE EXCHANGE SOME POINTS FOR A KNIFE AND BATTLE HIM HEAD-ON LOL
POINT EXCHANGE...?

YES I WAS SOMEHOW ABLE TO ESCAPE THOUGH
WAS YOUR HAND INJURED BY THE MAN CARRYING THE SMALL KNIFE?

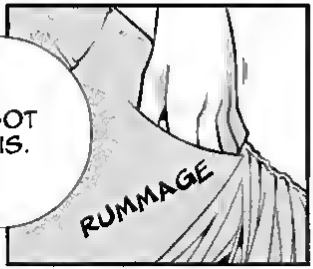
WELL... EVEN IF I DID GET A KNIFE, I'D STILL BE NO MATCH FOR HIM...

MAKE THE GAME EXCITING... THEY MEAN HURT SOME-ONE ELSE?
I CAN'T DO THAT...
.....

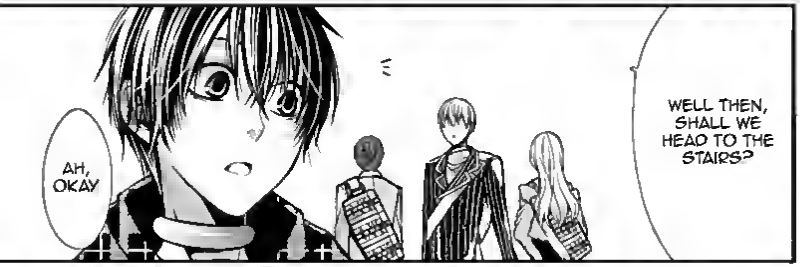

IF A PLAYER MAKES THE GAME EXCITING, THE AU-DIENCE AWARDS HIM OR HER WITH POINTS. WEAPONS AREN'T THE ONLY THING YOU CAN GET, SO IF YOU WANT TO DO WELL, YOU SHOULD APPEAL TO US


I GOT THIS.

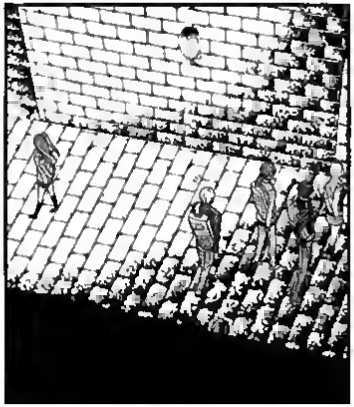
BY THE WAY, WHAT WEAPON DID YOU GET, NATSUMI-SAN?


RUMMAGE

A STUN GUN...?
I THINK SO. I'M NOT SURE WHETHER I'LL BE ABLE TO USE IT PROPERLY WHEN I NEED IT... BUT I THINK IT'LL BE USEFUL TO DEFEND MYSELF
THAT'S PRETTY GOOD. IT'S EASIER TO USE THAN A KNIFE.
EITHER WAY, IT'S GOOD FOR SELF-DEFENCE.


WELL THEN, SHALL WE HEAD TO THE STAIRS?
AH, OKAY

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, SEARA-SAN?
THE TOILET.



ARE YOU GOING TO COME WITH ME THEN? ARE YOU A PERVERT? THAT'S GROSS!
HUH?
AH...BUT IT'S NOT SAFE FOR YOU TO GO ALONE. THERE ARE DANGEROUS PEOPLE WANDERING AROUND...
SHOCK
A PERVERT LOL
HE GOT CALLED A PERVERT EVEN THOUGH HE WAS JUST WORRIED LOL
I WANT TO GO TO THE TOILET TOO...
HUH? I... I'M NOT SURE... I DON'T THINK I SAW ONE...
IS THERE A TOILET AROUND HERE?
UMM...
shy

I DON'T THINK THERE'S A TOILET HERE. YOU MIGHT NOT LIKE THIS, BUT YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO USE ONE OF THE ROOMS
I KNOW! THAT'S WHY I WAS TRYING TO GO BY MYSELF!
EH? A-AH...
FUJINO-SAN!
YOU TOO? LOL
Waaaah
NATSUMI SAN'S REACTION WAS TOO CUTE, SO SHE'S ALLOWED TO GO BUT THE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL CAN'T
SAME HERE!
I'D LIKE TO GO TOO.

I'LL COME TOO!
ME TOO!
.....
OKAY. ALRIGHT, LET'S GO, SEARA-CHAN.
TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY THERE.
RIGHT...
LET'S ALL GO TO THE TOILET BEFORE WE LEAVE. YOU SHOULDN'T GO TOO FAR, SO TRY TO USE A ROOM NEARBY.
OKAY!
SHALL WE GO TOO?
OKAY
BE CARE-FUL.
I'M WORRIED, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN FOLLOW THEM...
SHUT

THEY'RE ALL SO SIMPLE-MINDED.
IT WOULD BE INTERESTING IF THEY GOT SUSPICIOUS AND STARTED KILLING EACH OTHER.
HOW ABOUT PULLING OUT SOMEONE'S ORGANS?
I'M SURE THAT'D MAKE SOME PEOPLE GO CRAZY.
I'M EXCITED ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN
IF SOMEONE GOT KILLED NOW...

AH, I GUESS SO
YOU'D GET COVERED IN BLOOD IF YOU DID THAT WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT PEOPLE WOULD KNOW YOU WERE THE KILLER TOO

BUT... I'M SURE HE WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING THAT.

!!
TURN
SLAM
heh
I'M JUST WARMING UP. THIS IS THE FIRST STEP ON MY PATH TO GLORY...
WELL, CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR FIRST KILL.
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT I'M GLAD YOU GOT THINGS STARTED LOL
.....!?
HEY! GET YOUR CROSSBOW OUT! YOU'VE GOT NO CHANCE IN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT!
GASP
GIVE THAT TO ME IF YOU DON'T NEED IT.

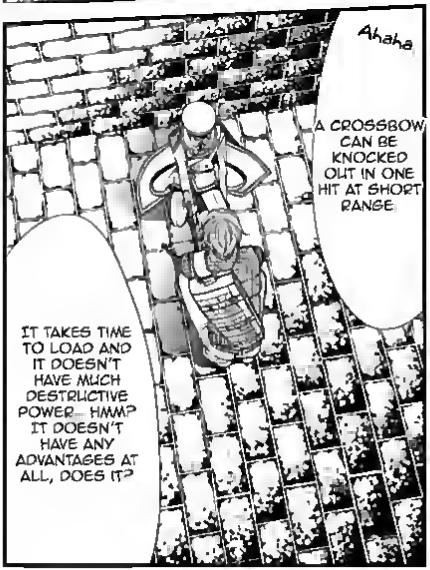
?!
WHAT A WASTE
STEP
STEP
GRAB
I'VE GOT TO HURRY!
HEY, GET UP.
WHAT'S HE TRYING TO DO?
HE'S NOT GOING TO APPROACH THAT KID?
?
.....
HEY.
slap
slap

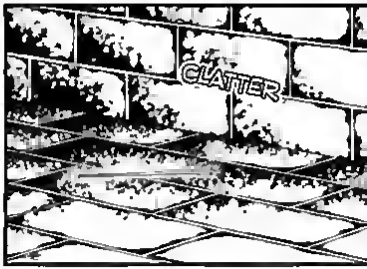
THUD
.....!
HUH?
HUUH?!
WHO IS THIS GUY?! WHAT'S HE TRYING TO DO?!
THROB
THUFF
.....
...?!
...
WHA....?
THUFF
THROB
THROB
THROB
I KNEW IT. HE JUST PASSED OUT FROM SHOCK.
OWW... IT HURTS...
WHY DOES MY EYE HURT...?!
HE'S STILL ALIVE!
HUH ISN'T THAT IM-POSSIBLE? HUH? HUH?
HE'S GOT LOTS OF LIFE IN HIM!

SQUEEZE
IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY.
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU DON'T PASS OUT.
CRACK
AH...
AHHHHHH!

UH...
UGH...
HE'S NOT MOVING ANY-MORE.
OH?
ARE YOU WEARING A MILI-TARY UNI-FORM?
COOL. IT SUITS YOU.
AH...
STAY...
STAY AWAY FROM ME!
TURN

TAP
SMACK


Ahaha
A CROSSBOW CAN BE KNOCKED OUT IN ONE HIT AT SHORT RANGE
IT TAKES TIME TO LOAD AND IT DOESN'T HAVE MUCH DESTRUCTIVE POWER... HMM? IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY ADVANTAGES AT ALL, DOES IT?

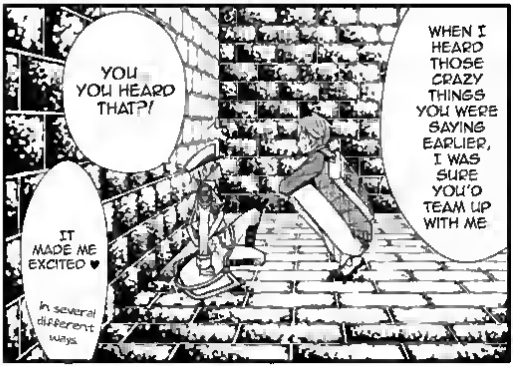

CLATTER

TREMBLE
AH, YOU'VE GOT COLOURED CONTACTS ON.
THAT BLUE IS A BEAUTIFUL COLOUR.
THERE'S NO NEED TO TREMBLE LIKE THAT.
I'M NOT PLANNING ON KILLING YOU.
I ACTUALLY WANT TO ASK YOU A FAVOUR.

HOW ABOUT WE WORK TOGETHER?

HUH?!
...DON'T YOU THINK IT'D BE FUN TO DESTROY THEM FROM WITHIN?
I FOUND OUT SOMETHING INTERESTING JUST NOW. SOME PEOPLE WERE TALKING ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER TO GET OUT OF HERE.
BUT WOULDN'T HE KILL HIM IF HE SAID NO?
HE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER WITH THAT GUY HE LOOKS STRONG
THINGS WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO INVESTIGATE IF THERE WERE TWO CULPRITS, RIGHT?
THAT... THAT'S IM-POSSIBLE. I CAN'T TEAM UP WITH THIS GUY...!
NO WAY! HE SHOULDN'T TEAM UP WITH SUCH A DANGEROUS GUY!
AN UNBELIEVABLE INUITATION LOL

I'M SURE THAT...
I WONDER WHAT THE KOREMA CHARACTERS WOULD SAY IN THIS SITUATION?
I'VE ESCAPED THE WORLD I USED TO LIVE IN.
WHAT HAVE I GOT TO BE AFRAID OF?
NO...
FINE.
I'LL HELP YOU KILL SOME TIME.


YOU YOU HEARD THAT?!
IT MADE ME EXCITED ♥
In several different ways
WHEN I HEARD THOSE CRAZY THINGS YOU WERE SAYING EARLIER, I WAS SURE YOU'D TEAM UP WITH ME

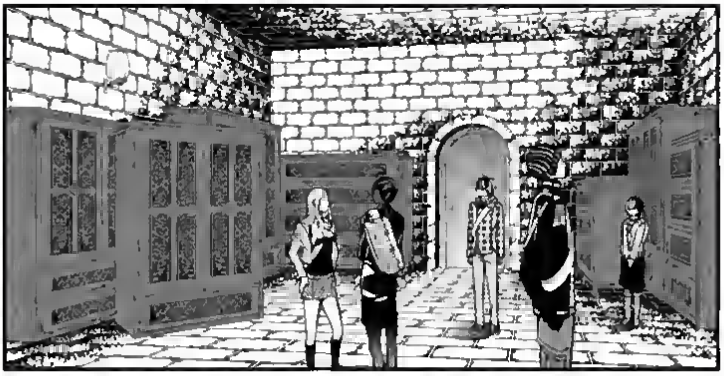
NOW YOU'RE TALKING!

EXCITES
ME...!

TO BE HONEST... I CAN'T UNDER-STAND THIS GUY.
JUST THINKING ABOUT BEING TOGETHER WITH A CRAZY GUY WHO SEEMS LIKE A CHARACTER OUT OF A LIGHT NOVEL

EXACTLY!
THAT MOCHIZUKI GUY IS SUCH A COWARD FOR REFUSING TO KILL ANYONE IN THIS SITUATION
THIS WORLD IS A WONDERFUL PLACE!

WELL,
SHALL WE DECIDE?
WHO WILL IT BE?



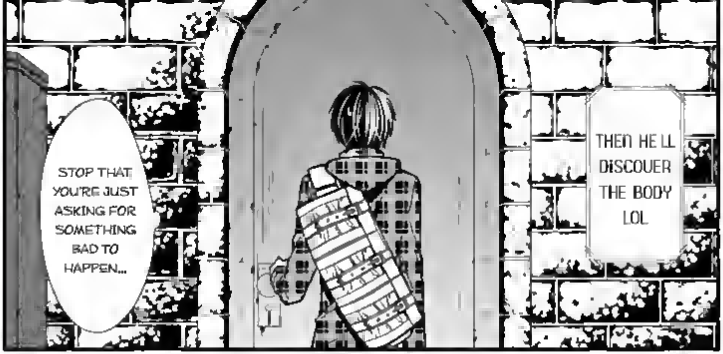
OH, NO I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING NOW.
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO TOO, MOCHIZUKI-KUN?

I CAN'T RELAX... I WONDER IF NATSUMI-SAN IS OKAY

YOU LET NATSUMI-SAN GO DESPITE KNOWING THAT?
I SUPPOSE IT'S BE-CAUSE I FEEL SAFE NOW THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF US.
NOW THAT THERE ARE SO MANY OF US, NO ONE CAN DO ANY-THING BAD.

AH, I JUST REALISED I'M FEELING THIRSTY THOUGH.
AHAHA, WHAT A COINCIDENCE I WAS JUST THINKING THE SAME THING.

HUH?
SO IF YOU'RE SAFE IN A BIG GROUP, THEN WOULDN'T IT BE DANGEROUS IF YOU SPLIT UP?
AH, I SEE. IT'S THE SAME OLD DEVELOPMENT.
THAT HAPPENS A LOT IN MYSTERY STORIES LOL
SPLITTING UP AFTER YOU'VE ALL TEAMED UP IS LIKE ASKING TO BE KILLED LOL
BUT THEY'RE GOING IN GROUPS... I DON'T THINK...
THAT COULD HAVE BEEN THE LAST TIME SHOUTA SAW NATSUMI.
SO WE'LL MOVE ONTO INVESTIGATING WHO DID IT, RIGHT?
.....
I'M... I'M GETTING MORE AND MORE WORRIED.
UMM... CAN I GO AND TAKE A LOOK AROUND THE CORRIDOR?
SURE, GO AHEAD. BE CAREFUL THOUGH.


STOP THAT. YOU'RE JUST ASKING FOR SOMETHING BAD TO HAPPEN...
THEN HE'LL DISCOVER THE BODY LOL

THE BAD FEELING SHOUTA HAD BECOMES A REALITY...

Bloody Junkie

by Hasumi Natsume

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Yukihito (translation) | Kaito (typesat)

IMAGE
Alassa (clean & redraw)

QUALITY
caalum-infinitum, Keeshtihn (proofraad) |
Kaito (image enhancement) | Kaito & Yukihito (overall raview)

BLOODY JUNKIE
ブラッディ ジャンキー
血と惨劇に酔いしれて……。
INTOXICATED BY BLOOD AND TRAGEDY...
HASUMI NATSUME
scene 9: 「You're the Culprit, Aren't You, Natsumi Hirose-san?
VOLUME 1 IS NOW ON SALE!

菜摘の身を案じて廊下に出た翔太だったが…
CONCERNED ABOUT NATSUMI, SHOUTA STEPPED OUT INTO THE CORRIDOR...

UMM.. NIKAIDO-SAN?
TH-THAT GAVE ME A SHOCK.

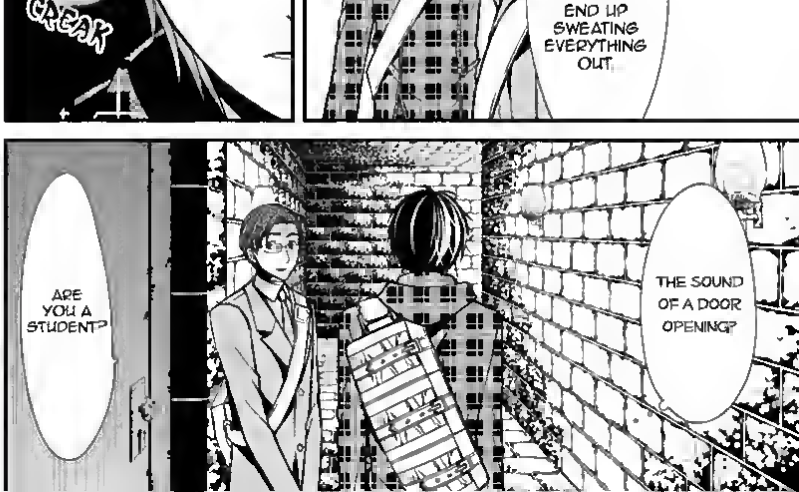
CREAK

!
SOME-ONE'S THERE!

THE OLD GUY WAS THERE LOL
WAS HE TRYING TO WATCH THOSE GIRLS GO TO THE TOILET ?!
AH... UMM...
I'M MOCHIZUKI. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WELL...
I'M A LITTLE CLAUSTRO-PHOBIC
THIS IS A BIG PLACE, BUT I THINK IT MUST BE UNDERGROUND BECAUSE THERE AREN'T ANY WINDOWS.
I FIND IT SUFFOCATING TO STAND IN ONE PLACE ALL THE TIME
I SEE.
AH, I UNDER-STAND THAT FEELING
IT MUST BE TIRING
SO THAT'S WHY HE LOOKS SO PALE...

AH. THE PEOPLE WHO WENT TO THE TOILET.
IT SEEMS LIKE THEY WENT AROUND THE CORNER AND USED A ROOM THERE
NIKAIDO-SAN HAS BEEN STANDING IN THE CORRIDOR AND DIDN'T MENTION ANYTHING, SO I SUPPOSE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG.
phew

AREN'T YOU GOING TO THE TOILET, NIKAIDO-SAN?
NO. I SUPPOSE I'M TOO SHOCKED. I THINK I'M GOING TO END UP SWEATING EVERYTHING OUT.
HUH?! ARE YOU OKAY?
GASP


THE SOUND OF A DOOR OPENING?
ARE YOU A STUDENT?

I REALLY DIDN'T THINK THAT THE VIEWERS WOULD BE FORCED TO PARTICIPATE
I'M WEARING A SUIT AFTER ALL.
YES. MY MEMORIES AREN'T CLEAR, BUT I THINK I WAS.
AH, YES I'M THE RIGHT AGE TO BE A STUDENT ANYWAY.
...WERE YOU KIDNAPPED ON THE WAY HOME FROM WORK?
WERE YOU VERY BUSY AT WORK?
FOR SOME REASON, I STILL THINK ABOUT THE JOB I WAS MEANT TO GO TO THE DAY AFTER I GOT KIDNAPPED, DESPITE BEING IN THIS SITUATION.
WOW... A GOVERNMENT WORKER!
THAT OLD GUY IS A WINNER!
AH, THAT'S AMAZING!
MY JOB ISN'T SO BUSY AROUND THIS TIME. I MAY NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT I WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT

I WONDER WHY I'M HERE NOW, WHEN ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING AMAZING, I TRIED AS BEST AS I COULD TO LIVE MY LIFE.
IT'S NOT AMAZING AT ALL.
...ALTHOUGH I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY JOB, MY DISAPPEARANCE MIGHT NOT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
...AH, SORRY A GROWN MAN SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN TO A YOUNGER PERSON.
DON'T SAY THAT.
.....

I KNOW THAT THE WORLD WILL KEEP ON MOVING EVEN THOUGH I'VE DISAPPEARED. IT MAKES ME FEEL SAD AND EMPTY...
...I UNDER-STAND SOME-WHAT.
YES...
AH.

WE GOT BACK SAFELY!
HEY.
W-WEL-COME BACK.
NATSUMI-SAN ISN'T... THE GIRLS AREN'T FINISHED YET, RIGHT?
I WONDER IF THEY'RE OKAY...
GO AND CHECK! YOU ARE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT THEM!
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LOOK! THAT'S ALL!
I'M SURE THEY'RE ALRIGHT GIRLS SPEND A LONG TIME IN THE TOILET.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
COME ON, IT'S NOT GOOD TO WANDER ABOUT IN THE CORRI-DOR, SO LET'S GO INSIDE.
THAT'S RIGHT! WE DON'T KNOW WHEN SOMEONE MIGHT ATTACK!
OKAY.

AREN'T THEY TAKING A LONG TIME...?
YES... I THINK IT'S BEEN TOO LONG
COULD SOMETHING HAVE HAPPENED TO THE GIRLS...?
HEY, HEY. SOMETHING MIGHT REALLY HAVE HAPPENED.
THEY COULD BOTH BE DEAD LOL NO WAY THAT'D HAPPEN
SHALL WE CHECK UP ON THEM?
NOD

ARE YOU OKAY, NATSUMI-SAN?!
BANG
BANG
NATSUMI-SAN!
THEY HAVEN'T RESPONDED.
CREAK
I'LL GO AND TAKE A LOOK
EVERYONE ELSE GO TO THE OTHER SIDE

SASAKI-SAN...?
.....!
!!
HIROSE-SAN! TACHIBANA-SAN! I'M GOING TO OPEN THE DOOR!
STAGGER
HMM? WHAT'S THE INSIDE LIKE?
WHAT'S GOING ON? TELL US!
!?

WE'VE GOT SOME VICTIMS...!
NATSUMI-SAN...?!
TWO IN ONE GO!
A SEA OF BLOOD!
THAT FLAG WAS AE-COVERED TOO SOON LOL
Note: Flag is a term used to indicate the future status of a character in a story (e.g. "death flag" or "romance flag")

slip
NATSUMI-SAN!
GRAB
WHY...
AH...
WHY...?!

IT'S OKAY. SHE STILL HAS A PULSE.
reach
.....?
HUH?
HIROSE-SAN DOESN'T SEEM TO BE INJURED, FROM WHAT I CAN SEE
THIS BLOOD IT PROBABLY BELONGS TO TACHIBANA-SAN
AH, IT WAS ONLY THE STUPID KID WHO DIED
HUH? DATSUMI SAN IS ALIVE?
IT'S TRUE... NOW THAT I'VE CALMED DOWN, I CAN SEE THERE'S NO BLOOD ON HER CLOTHES.
THAT'S WHY WE TOLD YOU NOT TO RAISE THAT FLAG...
thump thump
SHE'S GOT A PULSE TOO...

THANK GOODNESS...
I DIDN'T LOSE NATSUMI-SAN TOO...
ALL THIS BLOOD
BUT...
THAT MEANS ...

CAME FROM TACHIBANA-SAN'S BODY...
SHIVER
NATSUMI-SAN!
ARE YOU OKAY, NATSUMI-SAN?!
GASP
UH...

SHOUTA-KUN...?
NATSUMI-SAN! THANK GOOD-NESS...
.....?
OH...? HOW COME
KY...
KYAAAAA!
NATSUMI-SAN!

AH... HUH...? THAT'S..
SEARA-CHAN..?
HUH? HOW...
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN...?
THAT'S WHAT WE'D LIKE TO KNOW.

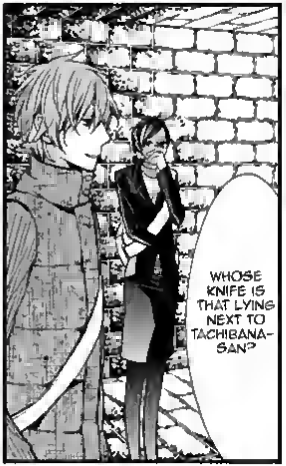
IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE YOU WERE GOING TO COME BACK AFTER USING THE TOILET, SO WE WENT TO TAKE A LOOK. WHEN WE GOT THERE TACHIBANA-SAN WAS DEAD AND YOU'D COLLAPSED
WHAT HAPPENED?

SUZUHARA-SAN..?

WAS IT FROM THE STUN GUN LYING OVER THERE?

I... I DON'T KNOW..
...HUH?
AH...

A SHOCK
A LITTLE WHILE AFTER I ENTERED THIS ROOM, SOMEONE CAME FROM BEHIND AND COVERED MY MOUTH... THEN I FELT A SHOCK AND EVERYTHING WENT BLACK...


WHOSE KNIFE IS THAT LYING NEXT TO TACHIBANA-SAN?

AH SO THAT'S WHY SHE PASSED OUT?
WAS THAT IN HER POCKET?
THIS IS THE ONE NATSUMI-SAN SHOWED ME...

HMM...
AH... I THINK THAT BELONGS TO TACHIBANA-SAN. SHE SAID HER WEAPON WAS A KNIFE.
I WONDER IF ONE OF THE OTHER PLAYERS DID IT
SO BECAUSE THERE WERE SO MANY OF YOU TOGETHER THEY TARGETED YOU WHEN YOU SPLIT UP?
THAT MIGHT BE TRUE...
IT'S NOT LIKE WE WERE SNEAKING AROUND. SUCH A LARGE GROUP WOULD MAKE SOME NOISE.
WE WERE HIDDEN BY FURNITURE, SO WE'D BE DIFFICULT TO SEE. BUT THERE'S A DOOR ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE CORRIDOR WE WERE IN.
THEY MIGHT HAVE WAITED FOR AN OPPORTUNITY THERE AND SECRETLY APPROACHED THE TWO GIRLS.

WHY?
HUH?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?

ONLY THE GIRLS WERE ATTACKED DOESN'T THAT MEAN SOMEONE WAS WATCHING THEM?
SO... SOMEONE SAW THE TWO GIRLS COME IN HERE AND THEN WENT TO KILL TACHIBANA-SAN...

WHY...? WELL, FROM WHAT NATSUMI-SAN SAID, IT SEEMS LIKE THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...

HOW CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?

EXACTLY.
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING EITHER.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, USAMI-KUN?

I USED THE ROOM NEXT TO THIS ONE, BUT I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING. I DIDN'T SEE ANY OTHER PLAYERS EITHER.
...HUH?
HUH?
WHY'D HE SAY THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN?

WE ONLY HAVE NATSUMI-SAN'S WORD THAT SHE PASSED OUT.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SHE DID EVERYTHING HERSELF.
IF IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE, THEN WHY DID THEY KILL TACHIBANA-SAN, BUT NOT NATSUMI-SAN?

...WHAT ARE YOU...TRYING TO SAY?

POINT
YOU'RE THE CULPRIT, AREN'T YOU, NATSUMI HIROSE-SAN?

HUH...?
HE'S TRYING TO SAY THAT NATSUMI-SAN DID IT...?
HOW DID THE CONVERSATION TURN TO BLAMING NATSUMI SAN? LOL
THAT'S SUCH A ONE-SIDED STATEMENT! IF ONE OF YOU IS THE KILLER THEN YOU'RE A SUSPECT TOO
BUT WOULDN'T THAT BE IMPOSSIBLE IF YOU WORKED ALONE?
RIGHT... IF THOSE TWO ARE ACCOMPLICES THEN THEY WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE AROUND FREELY.
IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE FOR THOSE TWO TO HAVE ATTACKED NATSUMI-SAN...
AH I SEE
YEAH YEAH YOU ARE SMART
YOU'RE ALL IDIOTS LOL IF THAT KID IS HIS ACCOMPLICE THEN IT'D BE NO PROBLEM LOL

THEY KILLED TACHIBANA-SAN?!
AND... I HEARD THE SOUND OF A DOOR OPENING WHEN I WAS TALKING TO NIKAIDO-SAN.
IT WAS TOO LATE FOR SOMEONE TO BE ENTERING A ROOM TO GO TO THE TOILET... AND THOSE TWO CAME BACK QUITE A WHILE AFTER THEY'D LEFT.
NO W.A.Y. DURING THAT TIME...

ANYWAY, JUST BECAUSE THERE'S A POSSIBILITY DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE THE CULPRITS.
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THE CULPRIT ISN'T SOMEONE INSIDE THE GROUP.
BUT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO COOPERATE ANY LONGER IF I SAY THAT.

I DIDN'T BUT CAN'T YOU TELL SHE DID JUST BY LOOKING AT THE SITUATION?
BUT YOU DIDN'T SEE HIROSE-SAN KILL TACHIBANA-SAN, DID YOU?

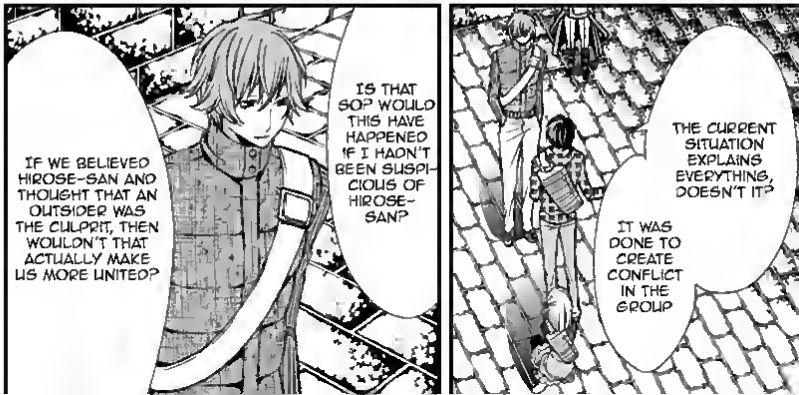
BUT THAT'S STRANGE! I HEARD A DOOR OPENING WHILE I WAS WITH NIKAIDO-SAN IN THE CORRIDOR
UWELL, IF HE DOES HE'D HAVE TO BE PREPARED FOR THE GROUP TO SPLIT UP
OH? ISN'T HE GOING TO ACCUSE THE OTHER GUY?
THAT'S JUST ONE REASON

WAIT A MINUTE! YOU SUSPECT NATSUMI-SAN JUST BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HEAR ANY NOISE?

NIKAIDO-SAN DIDN'T HEAR IT...?
DID YOU HEAR IT OR NOT, OLD MAN?
HUH? DID A DOOR OPEN?
ONLY THE MICS ON THE PLAYERS' NECKS PICK UP THE SOUND, SO WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HEAR ANYTHING FAR AWAY.
IT WAS TOO LATE FOR SOMEONE TO BE GOING TO THE TOILET YOU TWO ALSO CAME BACK QUITE A WHILE AFTER YOU'D LEFT.
TWITCH
YOU HEARD THE DOOR OPEN TOO, DIDN'T YOU NIKAIDO-SAN?
EH? AH... I'M NOT SURE... MAYBE I DID...
IF A DOOR REALLY WAS OPENED, THAT IS
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HEARD IT
THAT'S RIGHT.
ANYWAY, I HEARD THE SOUND OF A DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING!
IF IT WASN'T YOU TWO, THEN IT WAS THE KILLERS, WASN'T IT?

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY I'M LYING?
I WAS JUST TELLING THE TRUTH.
ANNOYED

WHY WASN'T HIROSE-SAN KILLED TOO?
THERE'S ANOTHER STRANGE THING


IF WE BELIEVED HIROSE-SAN AND THOUGHT THAT AN OUTSIDER WAS THE CULPRIT, THEN WOULDN'T THAT ACTUALLY MAKE US MORE UNITED?
IS THAT SO? WOULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED IF I HADN'T BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF HIROSE-SAN?
THE CURRENT SITUATION EXPLAINS EVERYTHING, DOESN'T IT?
IT WAS DONE TO CREATE CONFLICT IN THE GROUP

KILLING WHEN YOU CAN IS THE FOUNDATION OF THIS GAME. ONLY ONE PERSON CAN SURVIVE, YOU SEE.
WELL...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE...
beh
WHA...!
YOU'RE SAYING YOU DIDN'T EVEN CONSIDER THAT?
YOU'RE PRETTY STUPID, AREN'T YOU?
WHOA, THINGS ARE GETTING HEATED!
HE SUDDENLY GOT CONFRONTATIONAL.

AH...
TWITCH
DIDN'T YOUR STUPIDITY INDIRECTLY CAUSE SOMEONE ELSE'S DEATH?
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU TWO KNEW EACH OTHER BEFORE COMING HERE.
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT. THEY SAY PEOPLE WHO ARE SIMILAR TEND TO STICK TOGETHER.
NATSUMI-SAN HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!

SO BECAUSE YOU TWO ARE WORKING TOGETHER, TACHIBANA-SAN GOT KILLED WHILE HIROSE-SAN IS ALIVE AND WELL.
SUZUHARA-SAN...!
GRIT

AH... HE SAID IT LOL
THIS IS GOING TO LEAD TO CARNAGE LOL
Pant
Pant
HE GOT WORKED UP WAY TOO EASILY LOL
I SENSE A STORM COMING!
...DO YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
.....?
YOU JUST
AREN'T YOU TRYING TO MAKE NATSUMI-SAN OUT TO BE THE KILLER BECAUSE YOU TWO TEAMED UP AND KILLED TACHIBANA-SAN?!
YOU'VE BEEN BLAMING NATSUMI-SAN THIS WHOLE TIME, BUT THE MURDER WOULD'VE BEEN POSSIBLE IF YOU AND USAMI-KUN WERE WORKING TOGETHER!

ACCUSED
US OF
BEING
MURDERERS.

Y-YOU DID THE SAME THING...
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE.
I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IF SHE ISN'T THE KILLER.
I DON'T CARE IF YOU KILL ME.
HOW WILL YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IF WE AREN'T THE KILLERS?
W-WELL...
I'M TELLING YOU

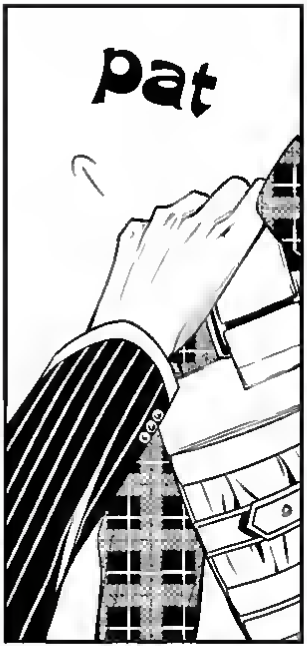
I'M SURE SHE'S THE KILLER.

HOW... HOW CAN HE SAY THAT SO CONFIDENTLY?!
WHOA!
HE'S FULL OF CONFI-DENCE.
CAN HE REALLY SAY THAT WHEN HE DIDN'T SEE WHAT HAPPENED WITH HIS OWN EYES?
HOW CAN HE BE SO CALM?!
NO THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
BECAUSE NATSUMI-SAN REALLY IS THE KILLER...?
HE'S BLUFFING!

I'M SURE THIS IS HIS TRICK!
HE SOUNDS REASONABLE BECAUSE HE'S SPEAKING CALMLY WITHOUT BECOMING EMOTIONAL, BUT WHAT HE'S SAYING IS RIDICULOUS!
THINK ABOUT IT CAREFULLY.
JUST LIKE I DID NOW.
IF HE SPEAKS THAT CONFIDENTLY, THEN ANYONE WOULD BELIEVE HIM.
BUT...

HOW WILL I GET EVERYONE TO UNDER-STAND...?!

!?
NOW THAT THERE'S A HIGH POSSI-- BILITY THAT SHE'S THE KILLER, WE CAN'T LET HER REMAIN FREE.
...WELL, I DIDN'T ACTUALLY SEE THE MURDER TAKE PLACE, SO I WON'T SAY ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THAT. I'VE GOT A SUGGESTION THOUGH.
WHY DON'T WE EASE EVERYONE'S WORRIES BY TYING HER UP?
!!
YEAH... WOULDN'T THAT BE THE BEST THING TO DO?
TYING HER UP?!
WAIT...


pat

I THINK THAT WOULD BE THE SAFEST THING TO DO...

MIKI-SAN TOO...!
SUZUHARA'S GOOD WITH WORDS
HE'S GOT A SMOOTH WAY OF SAYING THINGS
I WONDER IF THIS WAS HIS PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING?

RIGHT! FUJINO-SAN MIGHT HAVE A GOOD IDEA...!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
UMM...

FUJINO-SAN...!

LET'S TIE HIROSE-SAN UP.

DUE TO VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS WILL BE THE LAST CHAPTER.
VOLUME 2 IS SCHEDULED TO BE RELEASED IN SPRING.

諸事情のため、ここで連載終了となります。単行本2巻は、春頃発売の予定です

■ END ■

Bloody Junkie

by Hasumi Natsume

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TEXT

Yukihito (translation) | Keito (typeset)

IMAGE

Kaito (clean & redraw)

QUALITY

ceelum-infinitum, Keeshtihn (proofread) |
Keito & Yukihito (overall review)

YOU REALLY DO GET ON WELL YOU SEEM LIKE A REAL FATHER AND SON.
YAY
BEHIND THE SCENES OF BLOODY JUNKIE.
SHOUTA AND SHOUTA (CHILD VERSION) GET ON WELL WITH EACH OTHER.
BAM
HE'S ACTUALLY..
MY SECRET CHILD.
HUH?
COME HERE A MOMENT, TSUBAKI-KUN
Y-YES! OF COURSE!
SORRY, BUT COULD YOU KEEP IT A SECRET?
I CAN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT BECAUSE OF MY AGENCY..

SHOCK
SHOCK
AH, PA
MOCHIZUKI-SAN
SHOCK
HEY, PA...
MOCHIZUKI-SAN.
NO, HE DIDN'T SAY THAT!
ARE YOU SURE YOU HEARD IT RIGHT?!
PA...?
GRIN
THEY GET ON SO WELL THAT THEY HAVE FUN TEASING OTHER PEOPLE TOGETHER.

AFTERWORD

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BUYING VOLUME 2.
DID YOU ENJOY IT?

THIS IS SUDDEN, BUT BECAUSE OF
THE LOW SALES FOR VOLUME 1,
THE SERIES WILL END WITH THIS VOLUME.

I APOLOGISE TO THE PEOPLE
WHO ENJOYED THIS SERIES SO FAR
FOR MY LACK OF ABILITY.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR READING, ALTHOUGH
THE ENDING WAS AN UNSATISFACTORY ONE!

ENDING THE SERIES LIKE THIS WOULD
FEEL TOO INCOMPLETE, SO I'D LIKE TO
USE THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO WRITE
OUT THE REST OF THE STORY I HAD PLANNED.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PAGE~

Hasumi Natsume

Fujino continued "But if we're going to tie her up just because she's suspicious, then we'll have to tie up you and Usami-san too." Usami objected, but Suzuhara agreed without hesitation. Natsumi, Suzuhara and Usami had their hands tied behind their backs.

"Isn't it good that you've got everyone suspicious tied up?" said Suzuhara with a sarcastic tone.

They decided to head towards the stairs right away.

Fujino whispered in Shouta's ear, "I'm very suspicious of Suzuhara-san and Usami-kun. The first time I felt suspicious of them was when Usami-kun went around shaking everyone's hands. Usami claimed he'd "just met" Suzuhara, although he already knew his name.

Come to think of it, that did happen, thought Shouta.

Fujino apologised for involving Natsumi in order to tie up the other two.

On the way to the stairs, water began to gather at their feet.
The submerging had begun.

But the door to the stairs wouldn't open.

Everyone heard an announcement through their earphones.
"In accordance with the new rules effective from this moment, there will be some doors that cannot be opened."

While everyone was panicking, the water gradually rose.

Upon hearing a shout of "Split up and look for some other stairs!" everyone went their separate ways and began searching.

Soon a door that could be opened was found and everyone made their way to it.

They desperately climbed the stairs, and when they turned back, they could see the area where they had been standing was submerged in water.

A body slowly floated on the water surface.

It was Miki.

A knife, which was likely to be the same weapon that had killed Seara Tachibana, had been plunged into her upper back.

Everyone was suspicious about who had killed Miki.

The panic focused on whether anyone had seen Miki and who had climbed the stairs first, which meant no one could remember clearly what had happened.

"The three of us had our hands tied behind our backs, so we definitely couldn't have done it," said Suzuhara. It certainly would've been impossible, unless Miki had made the first move.

The three of them were let go, as no one could dispute the fact that they were no longer suspects.

All of a sudden, Takahashi was stabbed by an unknown assailant and groaned as he fell.

Tsubaki was standing nearby. He had picked up some kind of weapon, possibly a knife.

"I thought there were less of you than before. Small fry shouldn't team up and work together!" As Tsubaki spat out his words, he noticed Shouta amongst the crowd of players.

"Found you."

Tsubaki headed straight towards Shouta, without giving the other players a single glance.

When Fujino stepped in front of Shouta, the area was filled with thick smoke and it became impossible to see.

It turned out that Fujino's weapon was a smoke bomb.
Fujino, Natsumi and Shouta escaped the area.

When some of the smoke had cleared, Tsubaki dashed away in order to catch up with Shouta.

Suzuhara, Usami, Takahashi, Sasaki, Miyoshi and Nikaido remained behind.

The injured Takahashi begged Suzuhara to help him.
"Help me... You said we'd work together... So I killed that woman..."

Despite hearing Takahashi's words, Suzuhara simply smiled and looked down at him coldly.

It was not only Usami who had teamed up with Suzuhara, but Takahashi too.

Takahashi had killed Miki in order to get Usami and Suzuhara released.
"Hey, what's going on?!" Sasaki yelled as she looked in the direction Shouta and the others had gone.

"Let's deal with his injury for now..."

Sasaki was stopped in her tracks when she noticed something was wrong as she approached Takahashi.

Usami was standing with his crossbow pointed at her.

Meanwhile, after managing to escape, Shouta and the others started talking to one another while they tried to catch their breath.

Fujino shook his head when Shouta argued that he should go alone as he was the only one being chased.

He couldn't ignore Tsubaki, knowing that he was a dangerous person.
For their own safety, they ought to capture Tsubaki.

Fujino added that he knew about the site because his girlfriend, who had aspired to become an actress, had seen the game and decided to participate herself.

All Fujino had been able to do was to watch her participate in the game.

By being here now, he would be able to help someone else.

After Fujino's explanation, the three of them formed a plan.

With Natsumi's stun gun as their only weapon, they'd use Shouta as bait to lure Tsubaki, then Fujino would look for an opportunity to stop Tsubaki.

Aware of the risk that they might fail, they decided that Natsumi would work together with Shouta.

The plan was a success, and Fujino was somehow able to restrain Tsubaki.

Fujino searched inside Tsubaki's bag and pockets, the most likely places for his weapons to be.

When Fujino had taken Tsubaki's weapons and was about to tie him up, he was stabbed in the chest.

Tsubaki had used his first weapon, a screwdriver that he had hidden in the hood of his coat.

Fujino collapsed to the ground and Tsubaki laughed as he said Fujino would eventually get used to the shocks from the stun gun.

Miyoshi sat alone in a room, trembling as she remembered what she had just seen.

When the smoke in the room had cleared and Sasaki was finally able to see, she was suddenly shot by Usami with his crossbow.

Sasaki tried desperately to escape, though she didn't know what had become of the others.

Miyoshi gripped her scythe as she heard a dragging sound coming from far away.

She heard a small voice say, "Help me". It was Sasaki's.

Miyoshi hesitantly opened the door when she heard Sasaki's voice.

The thing that spoke with Sasaki's voice was an unsightly creature.

Her skin was stained red with her blood, her arms were twisted in impossible directions and her face had swollen into an unrecognisable shape.

Despite that, she appeared to cling to life, dragging herself along the ground in order to move.

Miyoshi was unable to recognise Sasaki and retreated, as if to tell Sasaki to stay away from her.

When Sasaki had slowly inched closer and grabbed Miyoshi's foot, Miyoshi fearfully brought down the scythe she was holding.

THAT WAS THE STORY I HAD THOUGHT UP SO FAR

BELOW I HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT THE SURVIVING CHARACTERS AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM IN THE END.

GIRL (I HADN'T DECIDED HER NAME YET)
THE ONLY CHARACTER WHO WASN'T AMONG THE VICTIMS SHOWN ON THE FIRST PAGE OF CHAPTER ONE. I HAD PLANNED FOR HER TO WORK TOGETHER WITH SHOUTA AND NATSUMI. HER WEAPON WAS A SMALL HANDGUN USED FOR SELF-DEFENCE. SHE KILLED THE MAN WHO DIED IN FRONT OF THE FIRST ROOM SHOUTA WAS IN. I HADN'T DECIDED WHETHER IT WOULD BE SUZUHARA OR TSUBAKI, BUT SHE ENCOUNTERED AN OPPONENT THAT "COULDN'T BE DEFEATED BY A GIRL" AND WAS KILLED.

NIKAIDO
A LOLICON WHO WAS FOND OF YOUNG GIRLS. HOWEVER, HE KNEW THAT HE WAS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PEOPLE AND TRIED HIS BEST TO LIVE AS A NORMAL PERSON. FEARING THAT HE WOULD BECOME INHUMAN. HOWEVER, HE AND SASAKI WERE SET UP BY SUZUHARA AND USAMI, WHICH MADE HIM LOSE REASON AND TRY TO KIDNAP THE YOUNG GIRL WHO WAS WORKING TOGETHER WITH SHOUTA. HE WAS KILLED BY THAT GIRL WHEN THEY WERE ALONE TOGETHER.

MIYOSHI
SHE WENT MAD AFTER KILLING SASAKI. BELIEVING THAT SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO KILL THE OTHERS. SHE LOSES CONTROL OF HERSELF WHEN SHOUTA PROTECTS HER. SHE STARTED USING BOMBS TO KILL PEOPLE. IN THE END, HER COLLAR IS ACTIVATED WHEN SHE TRIES TO KILL DURING A TIME WHEN COMBAT ISN'T ALLOWED.

USAMI
HE TEAMED UP WITH SUZUHARA FOR A WHILE, BUT DECIDED TO WORK ALONE AFTERWARDS. I HAD PLANNED FOR HIM TO BE KILLED BY MIYOSHI WHEN SHE LOST CONTROL OF HERSELF.

SUZUHARA
I HAD PLANNED FOR HIM TO SURVIVE UNTIL THE END, SO I HADN'T DECIDED HOW HE WOULD DIE. I LATER ADDED THAT THE REASON HE FOCUSED ON PAIN WAS BECAUSE HIS SENSE OF PAIN WAS ONLY HALF OF WHAT A NORMAL PERSON WOULD FEEL.

TSUBAKI
HE MADE SEVERAL APPEARANCES, AND I PLANNED FOR HIM TO BE THE LAST BOSS IN THE END. I HADN'T MADE A DEFINITE DECISION, BUT I IMAGINED HIM AS THE SON OF AN IMPORTANT PERSON, SUCH AS A CONGRESSMAN AND HIS MISTRESS. AS VOLUME 2 ENDED WITHOUT A NEW APPEARANCE FROM TSUBAKI, I WOULD'VE LIKED TO HAVE DRAWN HIM MORE OFTEN.

WHY WAS HE INJURED THAT DAY?
HOW DID THEIR PARENTS DIE?
ALTHOUGH IT'S TOO LATE NOW, I STILL THINK WHAT THE ANSWERS COULD BE.

MY MOTHER LEFT HOME ON MY BIRTHDAY.
KNOWING THAT MY PARENTS DID NOT GET ON WELL WITH EACH OTHER, I PREPARED
A NICE MEAL AND BAKED A CAKE FOR MY BIRTHDAY IN AN ATTEMPT TO PATCH THINGS UP.
I HAD A FAINT HOPE THAT THIS WOULD MEND THEIR RELATIONSHIP.
BUT IN REALITY, MY MOTHER LOOKED DISDAINFULLY AT THE CAKE I HAD BAKED AND THREW IT ONTO
THE FLOOR. SHE SPAT OUT THE WORDS "I'M NOT COMING BACK!" AS SHE LEFT THE HOUSE.

THAT DAY WAS ALSO MY BIRTHDAY. I COOKED A NICE MEAL, BAKED A CAKE AND WAITED
FOR HIM TO ARRIVE.
HE ARRIVED AT MY HOUSE EARLIER THAN EXPECTED, BUT IN A STATE OF PANIC.
HIS BROTHER HAD AN INJURY THAT REQUIRED SURGERY AND HE WOULD NEED TO BE
TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER PREFECTURE IMMEDIATELY.
IN HIS PANIC, HE ACCIDENTALLY KNOCKED OVER THE CAKE THAT WAS ON THE TABLE.
HE APOLOGISED LOUDLY AND IMMEDIATELY TURNED TO LEAVE.

THE CAKE LYING ON THE FLOOR. HIM TURNING TO LEAVE THE HOUSE.
I HAD A FLASHBACK OF THE DAY MY MOTHER LEFT AND PICKED UP THE STUN GUN I CARRIED
FOR SELF-DEFENCE.

EVER SINCE I LOCKED HIM AWAY, HE PLEADED WITH ME TO BE LET OUT.
"I WON'T LEAVE YOU LIKE YOUR MOTHER DID. IF YOU'RE WORRIED, THEN COME AND SEE MY BROTHER
WITH ME."
THAT'S A LIE. YOU'LL LEAVE ME ONCE YOU'RE FREE, WON'T YOU?
IT'S NO GOOD. I WON'T LET YOU ESCAPE.
...I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE.

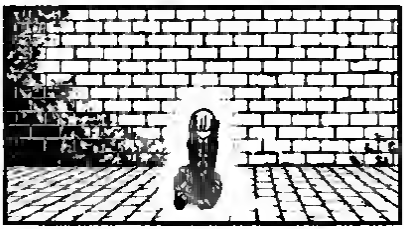
HE BECAME WEAKER DAY AFTER DAY.
HIS APPETITE BECAME SMALLER AND HE SPOKE LESS.
BUT HE WOULD STILL ASK TO SEE HIS BROTHER, IN A MURMURED VOICE.
WHEN I CRIED AND ASKED HIM NOT TO LEAVE ME, HE WOULD LOOK AT ME SADLY.
THEN HE'D SAY, "I'M SORRY I MADE YOU RESORT TO THIS."

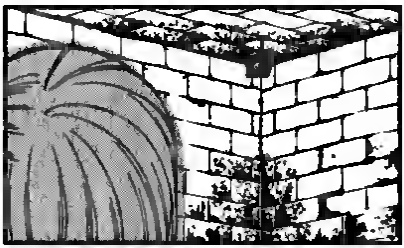
ONE DAY, WHILE WE WERE TALKING TO EACH OTHER AS WE USUALLY DID, HE TREMBLED
AND COLLAPSED.
WHEN I HURRIED TO SUPPORT HIM, HE MURMURED THE NAME OF HIS YOUNG BROTHER, SHOUTA,
AND STOPPED MOVING.
UNAWARE WHAT HAD HAPPENED, I SHOOK HIM AGAIN AND AGAIN, BUT HE DIDN'T WAKE UP.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO AFTER THAT.
I DID WHAT I COULD TO STOP HIS BODY FROM DECOMPOSING AND SLEPT BESIDE HIM EVERY NIGHT.
THE MORE TIME PASSED BY, THE GREATER HIS FINAL WORDS GREW INSIDE ME.
I WAS INCREDIBLY JEALOUS OF HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, WHO WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH
TO BE THE PERSON WHOSE NAME HE SPOKE AS HE WAS DYING.

THEN I HAD AN IDEA.

FIRST DAY





FROM THIS POINT ON, I'M GOINGTO PUT ON AN ACT IN ORDER TO MAKE A BOY CALLED SHOUTA MOCHIZUKI SUFFER, AND THEN I'LL KILL HIM.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO WHAT EVERYONE SAYS IN THE CHAT,
BUT I'LL BE COUNTING ON THE PEOPLE WHO WILL SUPPORT ME.

HOWEVER, I WAS UNABLE TO KILL HIM IN THE END.

INSTEAD, I REALISED THAT I HAD BECOME DESPERATE
TO KEEP HIM ALIVE.

PERHAPS I SAW THE SHADOW OF HIS BROTHER WITHIN HIM.

I DON'T KNOW NOW.

BUT SINCE THAT PERSON DIED,

MY WISH MIGHT HAVE BEEN TO BE KILLED
BY THE ONE PERSON WHO WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO HIM.

Bloody Junkie

by Hasumi Natsume

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TEXT

Yukihito (translation) | Odettee (typeset)

IMAGE

Crystal Zombie (acan) | Seven Sky Team (clean & redrew)

QUALITY

caelum-infinitum, Keeahtihn (proofread) |
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